Having a father worse than **Jaws** THE EYE

Suzanne Moore death of a **culture** heroine 🎇 19/FEATURES

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TODAY'S **NEWS**

Harriet freed, with one bound

It was billed by some as the first great rebellion of the Labour Government, and a come-uppance for Harriet Harman, Secretary of State for Social Security. In the event, though, disgruntled Labour backbenchers stayed away in droves from the Commons when it came to debating the proposed cuts In single parents' benefit only eager Blair loyalists turned up to applaud the Government's firm line. Page 7

BSE inquiry

A public inquiry into the BSE crisis will be launched by ministers before Christmas. Billions of pounds has been paid in compensation and 20 oeople have died from CID - more than enough, according to some Cabinet ministers - to justify the kind of inquiry that would normally he held into a major scandal or dis-Paster Page 12

Euro warning

Europe could split down the middle if the core group of countries who are creating the single currency go airead with an "inner economic cabi-Chemi: not" that excludes nations like Sritain, Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, warned in Brussels yesterday. Page 14

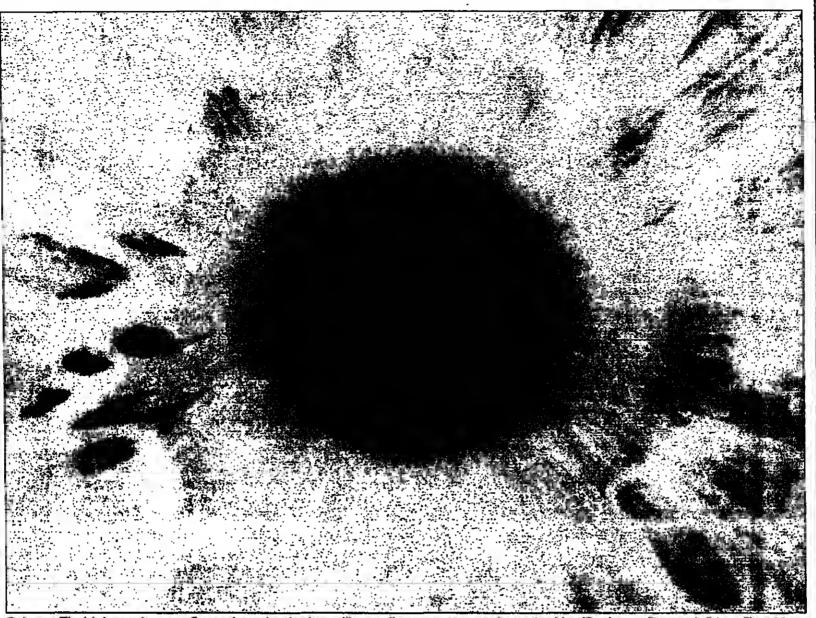
Grappelli dead

Stephane Grappelli, the world's most renowned jazz violinist who famously played alongside Django Reinhardt, died yesterday aged 89 following a career spanning 70 years. He continued to perform until only a few months ago. Page 3

> The Eve. page 12 Page 32 and the Eve. page 9 The Eye, page 10

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Your eye. The ultimate ID card



The PiN code of the future will be impossible to remember - yet you'll carry it everywhere. New cash machines will be able to read the pattern of your iris, uniquely and unforgeably identifying you. Chorles Arthur, Science Editor, describes how Swindon is hosting a futuristic technology.

The head office branch of the Na- fers a unique mark of identifitionwide Building Society is to be the venue for a system which could eventually replace cash cards and the hassle of forgotten four-digit PINs _ personal identification

cation. This could mark a breakthrough in the fight against fraud.

The new system, built by Sensar of New Jersey, compares the user's iris for 250 key character- contact lenses or glasses. It even termine within two seconds if the with cataracts. The only people

genital form of blindness which leaves them without an iris.

Forgery is also impossible. Photographing the iris and sticking that on spectacles, or (gruepicture of the iris taken at the somely) taking out the cychall numbers. An automated teller ATM with a previously stored im- would all fail, said Mike Magin, guaranteed password for PCs. machine (ATM) will go into use age. It claims accuracy of better technology vice-president of Sennext year which has an inbuilt than 0.001 per cent and works sar, because the system detects video camera that can scan the even when the person is wearing the three-dimensions of the eye.

istics in its radial pattern, and de- works for blind people and those scans it with a video camera and to test our customers' reaction to then uses a computer to analyse it." Tom Drudy, head of Sensar, person is who they claim to be. for whom it does not appear to the results. The extra cosl is also said: "We think it will change the Like fingerprints, the iris of work are those born with a con-ready less than \$25,000 (£15,250). way people do banking."

If the system could be miniaturised and condensed onto a single chip, it could be used to personalise many other consumer items, replacing house and car keys, and offering a

The Nationwide trial is expected to last six months. Nationwide chief executive, Brian The system lights the iris, Davis, said: "it will be fascinating

Cook pledges fund for war Jews

Britain is setting up a fund for survivors of the Holocaust, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, will annunce at the opening of the Nazi gold conference in London today.

All 15 countries who stood to benefit from £40m of gold from the Second World War settlements have agreed in principle that it should be bequeathed to thefund.

Thousands of victims of the Nazis are to benefit from the sale of the remaining 5.5 tonnes of gold recaptured from the Nazis and the Axis powers at the end of the war. Instead of the gold being returned to na-

tions whose reserves were looted by the Germans, months of negotiations have secured agreement in principle that it should go to Holocaust survivors and their families. Mr Cook, who will launch the fund when

he opens the international conference on Nazi gold at Lancaster House this morning, will also appeal for other governments to make donations. He outlines the plans in an article in The Independent today. Legislation going through the US House

of Representatives has proposed a US contribution to such a fund of up to \$25m, The Foreign Office last night refused to say how much Britain would contribute.

The gold has been held for more than 50 years by the Tripartite Gold Commission (TGC), comprising Britain, America and France, Legal wrangles held up the final payouts which gave Jewish organisations the apportunity to plead that people, not nations, should be the beneficiaries.

Files found in the last year have shown that some of the TGC gold must have been stolen from Jews, including gold teeth fillings extracted in the concentration camps.

A fiery press conference held by the World Jewish Congress and the Holocaust Educational Trust in London yesterday suggested that million-pound offerings will not be enough for Jewish organisations who see this week's 40-nation gathering as the last chance to help Holocaust survivors.

Edgar Bronfman, president of the World wish Congress, said they were expecting "10-figure" compensation - several billion dollars - from Switzerland alone. "Holocaust survivors are dying every day. I'm not waiting," be said.

- Louise Jury Robin Cook, page 21

Suspended: the police guru of Blairite zero tolerance

The senior policeman who has pioneered zero tolerance policing was yesterday suspended on full pay, Michael Streeter, Legal Affairs Correspondent, looks at the future of a policing technique whose champions are led by Tony Blair

Detective Superintendent Ray Mallon, whose tough policing policies in Middleshmugh attracted national and international interest, was suspended from duty yesterday following allegations of misconduct.

The controversial policy, which is said to have cut levels of crime in the area by 26 per cent, caused a flurry of interest among politicians such as Tiony Blair and Jack Straw, both of whom met Mr Mallon - dubbed "Robocop" - during the general elec- Ray Mallon: Suspended

The Prime Minister declared him-"new policing" which tackles minor ling to worry about." crimes, such as dropping litter, to crecrime is not allowed to flourish.

Mr Mallon later said he had done



self "passionate" in his support for the mothing wrong, adding: "I have noth-

Meanwhile, Assistant Chief Conare a climate in which more serious stable Andrew Timpson of Northamptonshire Police has been appointed as Cleveland Assistant Chief Con- an independent head of investigations stable Robert Turnbull said Mr Mal- into police corruption in Cleveland. He ion faced two separate allegations, will oversee the existing internal inquiry. One was passing on confidential in-set up under the auspices of the Police formation about an inquiry - called Complaints Authority last month after Operation Lancet - into police cor- two CID officers were suspended fol- hy Tory as well as Labour politicians. ruption in the force to a third party. Itowing the collapse of a drugs case. It A tectotal, non-smoking fitness fa-This is thought to refer to journalists, is understood that fresh allegations arisinatic, and a former water polo The second was of alleged activities ing since the original inquiry began inwhich "could be construed as crimi-clude claims of assault on members of the public by unnamed officers.

The suspension of a senior figure would ask to be sacked if he did not

such as Mr Mallon, one so closely identified with a policy criticised by some other police forces, will raise questions about the future of zero tolerance policing both in Cleveland

and elsewhere. However, Mr Turnbull said the policy would continue: "Positive policing as we prefer to call it will continue to be operated by the force. Zero tolerance is bigger than one man."

He said the allegations of police corruption which led to the suspension of the two detectives last month related to incidents in 1993 and 1994 - before the new policy as well as the past year. The pair, Scan Allen and Brendan Whitehead, were suspended over allegations that they supplied hemin to a suspect in return for confessions. Theere have been claims that up to 500 cases would have to be re-

opened by the force. Labour politicians such as Mr Straw see zero tolerance dovetailing neatly with their "tough on crime, tough on the couses of crime" stance. However, some chief constables, notably Charles Pollard of Thames Valley Police, have warned that while having a short-term use, zem tolerance had its dangers - and that confrontational policing could lead to social disorder.

Mr Mallon, 42, is a blunt-speaking policeman who has been feted international, when he took over as head of Middleshrough CID at the start of this year he pledged that he

ଠ 🕮 ଓ 🖜

reduce crime by 20 per cent in 18

Officers have been told to stop people for spitting, swearing, dropping litter and any other anti-social crime. Mr Malion used to hold morning briefings similar to those on the fictional television police series Hill Street Blues, telling officers: "You are the law, make a difference."

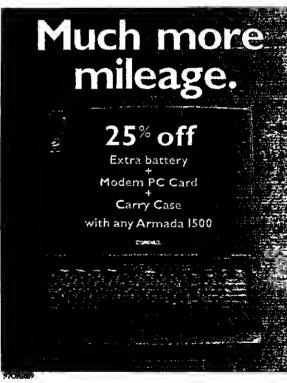
He reduced his zero tolerance philosophy to: "Strategy the what. Tactics: the how. Motivation: workforce, man-

agement, media, public" After his arrival as head of CID, a third of the department's detectives left, amid suggestions that their faces did not fit. Cleveland Police have been using CS sprays more than any other force in Britain and a fourfold increase in the number of suspects being slopped and searched has drawn criticisms from civil liberties groups.

Tony Williams, of the Police Complaints Authority, said yesterday that in the wider inquiry they were investigating "scrious criminal and disciplinary" issues. "Both the force and the PCA will take an extremely serious view of any attempt to interfere with this inquiry or obstruct it in any way," he said.

Last night Downing Street said the Government was determined to tackle crime and that zero tolerance "had a part to play". There was no comment on the suspension.





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X COLUMN ONE

Murder inquiry seeks to get inside killers' minds

The classic British murder, said George Orwell, was one that you could pore over in the Sunday newspaper after enting your roast beef and suct pudding. The murder, like the traditional Sunday lunch, would have a well-defined list of ingredients. Typically, the killer was a professional married man who had an obsession with another woman. After much soul-searching he would decide that an elaborate plan to poison his wife was the only way to resolve the dilemma with his social standing apparently intact.

To Orwell (pictured), who wrote about the decline of such killings in a famous essay in Tribune in 1945, growing social instability meant that murder was increasingly likely to he a more spontaneous affair. The "old poisoning dramas", he lamented, did at least "have strong emotions behind them".

Yet even today, amid the film imagery of drive-by slayings and terrorist massacres, it remains a statistical fact that you are more likely to know your killer than the thicf who takes



your video recorder. Half of female murder victims are killed by family members or partners. And two-thirds of male victims know their killers. And unlike car thieves, vandals and hurglars, the killer is fairly easy to track down. Most are apprebended or identified at the scene of the crime and 95 per cent of the 600 or so murders a year arc cleared up.

But despite public outrage over crime levels and what the police often describe as "senseless killings", no one has yet thought systematically to ask the killers themselves why they

Until now. The Independent

has learned that the Prison Service and Scottish Office have agreed for a team of criminologists to visit jails and probation centres and speak face-to-face with 175 British killers. Publicly funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, this will be the biggest study of murder ever carried out in Britain. The results will be analysed at the universities of Manchester, Newcastle and Glasgow.

The researchers will have access to the killers' prison and prohation files, so that they can build up a life history of each individual. They will speak to domestic murderers, serial killers, child killers and sex attackers who murder their victims. Their purpose is to pinpoint the social, family and individual factors which drive men and women to kill. The researchers believe that if they can identify patterns of behaviour then potential killers can be

*In this country you are at very little risk of being killed by someone you don't know," said Russell Dobash, Professor of Criminology at Manchester University, who is leading the study, "We want to identify risk factors [and] the pathways to homicide, Hopefully, in future we can intervene more effectively to prevent this lethal violence."

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PEOPLE



Rory and Wendy bring God up to date

Thora Hird and Harry Secombe they're not. Rory and Wendy Alec (above) are the shiny new faces of religious hroadcasting. She looks like Fenella Fielding in Carry on Screaming, while he looks like a blow-dried member of Bucks Fizz. And yesterday the Alecs, a pair of South African charismatic Christians, launched a highly expensive publicity and advertising campaign

for their brainchild: God The Christian Channel, In the unlikely surroundings of Sir Terence Conran's swish Soho eatery Mezzo, the pair drew on a showhusiness past of singing in nightclubs to present a tape of Christian programmes for the MTV generation. Although reliant on United States televangelists, they are also trying to make Christian programmes hip by using up-to-date presentation techniques and marketing. They are even trying to trademark the word God.

We hope to give material that is going to attract a generation that is never going to walk into a church," says Mrs Alec, "Most Christian television is extremely irrelevant and old-fashioned. It is aimed at the over 55s." Instead of importing 70 per cent of their output from American evangelists as they do now, the Alecs hope to start exporting programmes to the US.

Wendy Alec became a charismatic Christian after seeing the face of Jesus in a mirror in the lavatory of

a nightclub she was singing in. She joined up with Rory while touring South Africa in a Christian group and the two decided to set up a Christian channel in Europe after a preacher prophesied that they would.

Two years ago they had just £140,000 in start up funds, two hours in the middle of the night on Astra and a pile of free tapes from American television evangelists. Now the channel costs almost £3m a year to run and they are producing seven hours of original programmes a week. God The Christian Channel is currently bearned into 22 million satellite and cable homes across Europe from the Astra satellite for seven hours a day. Next April it will go to 24 hours a day and when digital television launches the Alecs have a licence for six channels of Christian output. Also included will be a Christian shopping channel for tapes and books, hut not holy water.

Funding comes from the US television evangelists who pay to get access to a European audience and from a charity that viewers can make donations to. British regulations mean that they are not allowed to appeal for funds on air in the way that has made American evangelists rich. But they are benefiting from the

growth in the charismatic movement in Britain. - Paul McCann, Media Correspondent

Football coach wins her sex discrimination case

A football coach who claims she was denied a top qualification because she was a woman has won her sex-discrimination case against the Football Association, Vanessa Hardwick (pictured), 32, said vesterday that she had been awarded £5,000 for injury to her feelings. "There could be more to follow

of earnings, which have yet to be assessed," she said.

because of things like potential loss

tribunal and would appeal. tion teacher of Ickenham, north-west "a world run by men for men".

London, took action after failing to



The FA said that it was very dis- last year. She claimed at London

appointed with the outcome of the North industrial trihunal that lead- coach," she said. ers of a course at Lilleshall, Shrop-Ms Hardwick, a physical educa- shire, made her feel out of place in case by the Equal Opportunities

ing one of the boys - not being in with the innuendos - made it more intimidating and stressful," she said. "I suffered because I was assessed on my ability to play men's , football in their style and not women's, which is vastly different, and that put me at a disadvantage." Yesterday she said the four-day hearing was "worth the hassle", adding that she was trying for the advanced coaching licence again.

Ms Hardwick was backed in the Commission and National Associ-"The course was physically and ation of Schoolmasters/Union of

UPDATE

A calm mind makes for a healthy heart

Stress can damage the arteries as much as smoking or high levels of cholesterol, according to a study. But it is not the stress itself but how people cope with it that counts. United States researchers who studied 900 Finnish men found those who showed the most extreme response to mental stress tests had the thickest blockages in their carotid arteries - the vessels supplying blood to the brain. The researchers, from the University of Pittsburgh, monitored the men performing a series of stressful tasks adjusting the difficulty level so that no one got more than 60 per cent right. The findings, published in the American Heart Association journal Circulation, showed that those with the highest blood pressure had the thickest arteries.

- Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor

MOTORING

Drivers misjudge drink-drive limit

Three in four motorists would support a reduction in the legal drink-drive limit, and 84 per cent of motorists believe police should enforce the drinkdrive laws more rigorously, a new survey says. The findings, from motor insurance company Eagle Star, came as the Government launched its £2m Christmas crackdown on drinking drivers. Last week, the Government announced it was publicly consulting on lowering the drink-drive limit from 80mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood to 50mg. However, the survey said 44 per cent of motorists did not know the existing legal limit and 32 per cent who believed they knew the limits, dangerously underestimated them.



COMMUNICATION

Edinburgh serves rhubarb and fog

In the Plain Language Commission's annual awards, the top award, the Golden Rhubarb Trophy, went to the City of Edinburgh Council. Their letter to a local resident was described by Martin Cutts, research director of the commission, as a "fog of puzzling and pompous English". Runner-up was Scottish Amicable Investment Managers Ltd. for a 164-word sentence, couched in incomprehensible legalistic language. Northern Electric plc of Newcastle upon Type was a poor third for the "incredibly small print" of its conditions of supply, which Mr Cutts remarked were illegible "without a magnifying glass".

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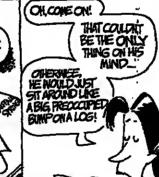






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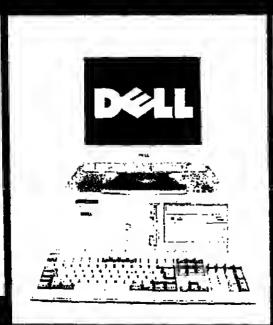
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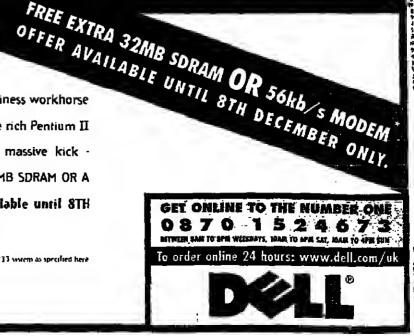


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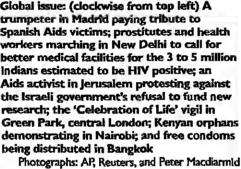
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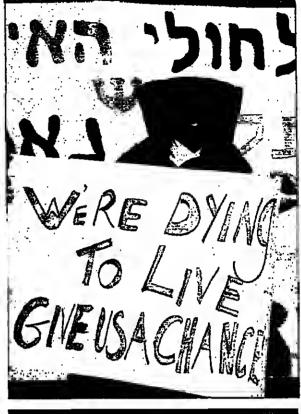


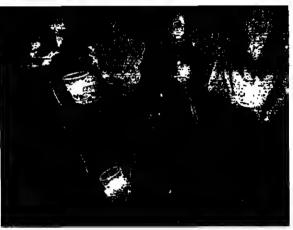












One passenger, one bag: US airline risks all with in-flight restriction

Board a domestic flight in America and you know you have certain rights: You are entitled to eat nothing but peanuts and suffer considerable physical discomfort. Best of all, say David Usborne in New York and Randeep Ramesh, you are entitled to bruise, batter and fight other passengers for space in the overhead lockers.

It has been the problem no airline has been willing to acknowledge. Passengers flying within the United States have long been allowed to take two carry-oo hags into the cahin. Now one carrier is saying enough is enough.

Starting last week, just in time for the Thanksgiving travel rush. Northwest Airlines took the startling and courageous the price of your ticket. Fly on

step of limiting passengers to iust ooe carry-on case, plus a haod-bag or a lap-top computer. Anything else, it has decreed, must be checked into the hold. This for travellers who have traditionally been able to carry as much in the cabin as Europeans can take in an aircraft's bold.

The response from the US public has not been a happy one. The old two-bag rule was already geoerous but it was also widely flouted. Nervous of surrendering cases to baggage systems that either chewed them or lost them, passengers routinely haul what looks like half alleged. their worldly goods straight to their seats.

Even if bags do survive the handlers, the simple matter of waiting 10 minutes at the baggage carousel at the end of a that likes its service - whether seven exits. it be eating in restaurants or close to instant as possible.

For British travellers, the service provided is determined by

Coocorde and take 12 kg of stance in Lagos saw a man pass hand luggage. Pay an economy immigration and security counclass fare and you can eod up ters carrying a complete exhaust with a size limit and be allowed

The Association of Flight Atteodaots, which has been pushing for an eod to the two-bag regime, recently reported that 4,000 passengers suffered injuries in North America last year because of items bursting forth from overstuffed overhead bins. Amongst the missiles were car batteries, birthday cakes, cases of wine and, on one occasion, a bloody yak leg, the attendants

The risk is greatest in the eveot of an emergency or crash landing. In one Canadian crash. "overhead hins collapse on top of people, injuring and trapping many of them. The debns flight is anathema to a society blocked four of the aircraft's air industry, has said it is re-

huving by mail order - to be as the passengers' requests border of "passenger behaviour". It has on the hizarre. One traveller on a recent British Airways flight wheel on board. Another in-

assembly for a Mercedes car.

In Britain the problem is made worse by the huge sbopping malls that tempt travellers at the airport, "What do you wheo a passenger bas bought a 14 iocb televisioo from Dixons in the duty free?" asked Tony Mahood, BA's manager for customer service standards.

It may not be long before other US airlines follow the European model. Yesterday, United Airlines began testing a one-hag only rule on its flights out of Des Moines, Iowa. American Airlines bas also signalled a desire to crack down on the carry-on crushes.

The Federal Aviation Authority, which oversees the US luctant to issue regulations to Airlioes poiot out many of govern what it says is a matter promised, however, to issue guidelines on carry-on limits and tried to hring a Formula Onc they are likely to be in North-

SIEMENS

Remember, somewhere out there is a pair of argyll socks with your name on them. This Christmas, get to Santa before he gets to you. Ask for the new Siemens S10, which has just been voted the Best Submess Mobile in the World by Connect magazine and which comes with 10 hours talktime, the world's first colour display and a voice memo function. Better

Curtain comes down on a jazz legend

Stephane Grappelli, the great jazz violinist, once said that he would go on playing until the "final curtain". Yesterday the performance ended. Paul McConn recalls a career that spanned Django Reinhardt and Nigel Kennedy.

The world's greatest living jazz violinist finally laid down his bow yesterday after a 70-year Paris at the age of 80. Grappelli died in a clinic where he had an operation for a hernia last week. The cause of death has not been disclosed.

that he had been ill and in the

been playing bis brand of swing jazz to audiences in Australia as recently as last summer - despite needing a wheelchair for the performance and oxygen Legion D'Honneur from Presideot Chirac.

A slight stroke in 1993 tive to his listeners." forced Grappelli to cancel a sesurgery to replace an artery in the stage for two months.

But his need to spread the playing career, when he died in music he loved was unstoppable: "I love to tour. I have to tour! I am like a shark; I won't stop," he once said. "I will play until the final curtain."

Lord Menuhin, speaking Friends reported yesterday from Germany yesterday said: "He was perhaps the most

clinic for some weeks, but had beloved violinist and brought more joy to people than anybody else that I can think of in the string world."

Pete King, director of Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club, said: "He when he came off stage. In Sephas made a buge contribution tember this year he accepted the to jazz. "He was an incredible player and a very melodic player whose music was so attrac-

Grappelli and his partner in nies of gigs. In 1994, he had the Hot Club Quintet, gypsy guitarist Django Reinhardt, broke his neck, and that kept him off the American dominance of jazz when they played to audiences across Europe in the 1930s, despite initial audience hostility.

> Born in 1908, the son of a philosophy professor, Grappelli began his musical career at 15 as a pianist for silent films. He won a scholarship to the Isadora Duncan school and the

Paris Conservatoire where he studied piano and violin.

After stints playing sax, accordion and drums he chose the violin, modestly saying later: "I chose the violin because there is not too much competition." After being spotted by mu-

sic critics in an orchestra in a Paris Hotel he and Reinhardt formed the Hot Club Quintet which went on to become the most influential and popular jazz baod in Europe. They popularised the "swing" sound that formed the soundtrack to a million wartime romances.

After the war, he did not return to touring until the Sixties. Then he started his endless globetrotting, playing romantic tunes from the great writers of the jazz era: George Gershwin, Jerome Kern and Cole Porter. Obituary, page 22

Some private rail companies are failing to improve passenger safety because of the extra cost, according to a Health and Safety **Executive report** released yesterday. Randeep Ramesh, Transport Correspondent, reports on the potentially lethal practice of putting

Serious charges were levelled yesterday. Both Railtrack and came under fire from safety approved.

profits before safety.

Stan Robertson, the Chief Inspector of Railways, highlighted a number of instances where the HSE had to step in.

At a viaduct in Kent, Railtrack had refused to put up a there will always be room for tence to prevent people being showered by objects thrown appealed against HSE's inter-

wanted to use old slam door have central locking. The comwas not justified, now "fewer excuse for complacency." people were falling out of train doors". Unsurprisingly, the HSE months ending March 1997 redid not accept this argument.

Some rail employers were even "misusing" the "risk ascation for reducing safety levels, the report added.

existing situation is too costly from carriages.

and thus is not reasonably practicable," said Mr Robertson. "It is a fact that managers now do not want to spend money where they feel they do not need to. J expect operators to go that extra step in the pursuit of safety rather than stop as soon as figures indicate that they appear to he justified in doing so."

The privatised railway network has seen an increasing number of managers who considered the present safety requirements as, according to one manager, "overly-stringent".

However, the HSE does not accept this, Mr Robertson said some railway managers thought at the privatised rail network they had nothing more to do once their safety plan - known the private train operators as a safety case - had been

In the foreword to the report, he went on: "Consequently, they take umbrage if a railway inspector asks for something to be modified to make it less dangerous. The reality is ... improvement.

Ministers responded to the from train windows. Railtrack report with harsh words. Gavin Strang, the transport minister, vention but had to back down. warned train operators not to A private train company put profits hefore safety. He said: "Profit must not be put betrains - criticised by the HSE - fore the wellbeing of staff and on InterCity trains which did not passengers, and operators should not take these broadly pany said modifying the stock encouraging statistics as an

The statistics for the 12 vealed that arson was the cause of 64 per cent of passenger train fires; and there was a 53 per cent sessment system" as a justifi- increase in trains running into obstructions deliberately placed on tracks. Fatalities, at 25, were The most common justifi- the lowest ever, and only two cation is that maintenance of the people were killed after falling



Onwards and upwards: Playtime at Pembury House

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

After hours childcare solves missing link

Seven early-year centres around the country yesterday became the first to join a flagship Government scheme to end the divide between nursery schooling and childcare. Lucy Word, Education Correspondent, visited one of the pioneering "one-stop shops."

For some of the three- and four-year-olds at Pembury House Centre for Childhood, in Haringey. north London. 3.15pm means home time. For others, the end of the school day signals a switch to play time, with songs, reading and rhymes and a snack in the hall until mum or dad arrives at 5.45pm to collect them.

The mix of care and education, launched at the start of this term, has already been seized on by parents in the deprived borough. The arrangemeni offers parents affordable and reliable childcare for an hour before school and two-anda-half hours afterwards, allowing them time to work, study or search for a job.

Pembury House's efforts to bridge the gap between the needs of parents and children have impressed the Government. Jointly with a neighbouring centre, also run by Haringey and offering babycare, nursery and adult education, Pembury is one of seven centres named yesterday as "beacons of excellence" to spread primary ideas across early-years services.

The common factor linking each pilot scheme is an emphasis on integrating early education, childcare and family services to meet the needs of both children and parents, including those who work or bring up a family single-handed.

Pembury House, which also runs training for adults in childcare and playwork on site, has a history of adapting to parents' requirements. The original building, thrown up in the Sec-

ond World War, with an air raid shelter in the garden, provided nursery care for children whose mothers were busy with war work.

The present centre, housed in a bright, purpose-designed building, opened last year, will offer a holiday club for children, together with a parent and toddler club and talks for parents on child health and education.

So far, eight families use the before-and-after-school care, priced at £2.20 an hour, with concessions for those on benefits, Others say the option has freed them to look for work.

Mix-up blamed for 'CJD transplants'

An administrative mix-up was yesterday being blamed for three people receiving corneas from a woman who had Creuzfeldt-Jakob Disease.

Two men and a woman, from Wolverhampton, Liverpool and Manchester, were told that they have received the corners the surface of the eye - from a woman who had CJD, as it was confirmed that the disease can be transmitted by that route.

The patients' identities were not revealed, but Dr Andrew Tullo of the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital said the operations had been carried out earlier this year. The donor, Marion Hamilton, died aged 53 in Stirlingshire from lung cancer. and was then found to have CJD during a post-mortem. The UK Transplant Support Service Authority (UKTSSA), which runs the eye hank at the hospital, was not told until last month.

The Scottish Office was vesterday preparing a report on the case, which was being blamed on a "breakdown in communication" between the different organisations. A helpline for concerned patients has been set up on 0161 276 8500.

Luxor body search

The search for the missing body of a British tourist killed in the Luxor massacre was last night concentrating on Colombia.

The assistant deputy West Yorkshire coroner James Turnbull said he had been told that the body of Karina Turner, from West Yorkshire was not in Japan, Switzerland, Bulgaria or Germany. The only other country where bodies were sent after the massacre was Colombia.

The body of Karina's mother, Joan, 53. had wrongly been sent to Switzerland.

Turner art protest

The four finalists of the Turner Prize and other artists, including Damien Hirst and Bridget Riley, will present a petition to the Government today protesting at the introduction of museum charges.

Their protest comes on the day that the winner of the Turner Prize is to be announced. The modern art prize has an allfemale short-list for the first time. Angela Bulloch, Gillian Wearing, Comelia Parker and Christine Borland will hand in the petition to Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture. Media and Sport.

- Kate Watson-Smyth

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said mix-up was yesterday by

in births league One test-tube baby clinic had a zero success rate last year. In another, almost 30 per cent of treatments resulted in a live birth. Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor, examines the reasons for the gulf between the best and the worst.

Couples seeking in vitro fertilisation can dramatically increase their chances of having a bahy by choosing the right clinic in which to have treatment.

How clinics rate

Official figures published yesterday show that the hest clinics are continuing to improve their success rates while the poorest are getting worse. They provide the clearest evidence of the enormous variation in the quality of treatment that applies across the medical spectrum.

Last year, only one clinic had a live birth rate below 5 per cent and none scored more quadruplets which carry an increased risk than 25 per cent. This year three scored more than 25 per cent, better than the monthly success rate for couples conceiving naturally, and three dropped below 5 per cent. The average live birth rate for all clinics was 15.1 per cent.

The figures, published today by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority in its Patients' Guide, show a zero live birth rate for the first time - at the Reproductive Medicine Unit in Withington Hospital, part of South Manchester NHS

The clinic, which also came bottom of last year's table, treated 54 patients and had only one live birth. This was not counted because it was from a frozen embryo which is excluded under the system for com-

FIVE BEST PERFORMERS

Welbeck Clinic, London W1

Lister Hospital, London SWI

Royal United Hospital, Bath

Holly House Hospital, Essex

South Manchester NHS Trust

Singleton Hospital, Swansea '~"

Hope Hospital, Salford

FIVE WORST PERFORMERS

Newham General Hospital, London

Cronwell Hospital, London SWS

Nurture, Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham

piling the figures in order to ensure the results for all clinics are comparable.

The top performing clinics are achieving their success at a price. The Guide, which covers the period April 1995 to March 1996. shows that many clinics are now routinely using three embryos in each treatment, the maximum permitted under the regulations, increasing the risk of a multiple birth. The proportion of twin and triplet births is about twice as high in the best performers compared with the rest.

One exception to this rule is the Assisted Conception Clinic at the Royal United Hospital, Bath, described as "seriously good" by one insider, where more than half the treatments involved the transfer of only two embryos. The remaining four clinics among the top five used only two embryos in less than 20 per cent of treatments.

Nationally almost a third of births by in vitro fertilisation are of twins, triplets or of complications and can impose emotional and financial pressure on parents. Ruth Deech, chairwoman of the authority, said last month that the multiple birth rate would be kept under "active consideration."

Yesterday, Mrs Deech said: "The main factors that determine the chances of a successful outcome are the age of the woman, the length of time the couple has been trying to have a family, previous ability to conceive, and the quality of the sperm. If couples are in a position to choose, they should ohtain information from a number of clinics and then decide which one best meets their needs."

• The Patients' Guide is available free from the HFEA, Paxton House, 30 Anillery Lanc, London E1 7LS.

Treatment

(number)

Live birth rate

per egg collection

(per cent)



Unease grows about baby from beyond the grave

Thanksgiving gave one California couple especially happy news: a new grandchild may be on the way. But, as David Usbome explains, this haby Is already generating controversy because its mother is no longer alive.

For Howard and Jean Garber, it is more than just the happy news that prospective grandparents have enjoyed the world over. It is also consolation for the loss they suffored twelve months ago: the death of their daughter, Julie.

Their happiness is being marred, however, by the public storm that is suddenly enveloping them. The grandchild they are expecting will be Julie's, carried by a surrogate mother who agreed to be host to eggs that were taken from Julic while

she was still living, fertilised and then

The Garbers, who live in Anaheim, confirmed yesterday that the surrogate mother, named only as Tracy, tested poshive at the weekend after heing implanted with the final batch of the eggs last Thursday, "The doctors have told us to be cautious, but the results were good," Mr Garber said yesterday.

As they celebrate, the Garbers are facing allegations that the unusual procedure is distasteful at best, if not unethical, Critics are accusing them of arranging for Julie to give birth from beyond the grave in a selfish effort to duplicate the daughter they

The extraordinary story began in 1992, when Julie Garber was diagnosed with a tumour on her hrain stem. She survived risky brain surgery. Later, however, she was diagnosed with leukaemia and once

of chemotherapy that Julie apparently realised that she may dic without having had the chance to bear a child. Before dying, she arranged to have eggs harvested from her, fertilised and put in cold

After Julic's death, it was up to Howard and Jean to seek out a surrogate as well as a specialist who would be willing to oversee the unorthodox procedure. They at first met a brick wall, as specialist after specialist refused, saying the Garbers were attempt to recreate their daughter.

They found Tracy through a newspaper advertisement and agreed to pay her £10,000 to bear their grandchild. Early attempts to plant the eggs failed. This weekend, however, hrought news that a child

may be on the way. An unrepentant Howard Garber yes-

again hospitalised. It was during a course terday hit back at the critics, "Those who oppose this ought to concentrate on the millions of babies that are coming into this world through careless means, who are unloved, uncared for and essentially thrown in the trash bin," he said.

Mr Garber, who anchors a cable television show on ethics and morals, added indignantly: "Our grandchild will be wanted, loved and looked after in an appropriate environment. This baby in every way will be our grandchild."

If the pregnancy proceeds normally and the baby is indeed born, it will be raised by a son of the Garbers, Ron, and his

Mrs Garber says that she is only following the instructions that Julie left her before dying, "Mum, I want you to have a direct role in raising my child. I promised her and I did not make that promise lightly," she said.

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Beginning of the end for first past the post

The first step was taken last night towards ending the current first-pastthe-post system of electing MPs to the

Commons. Anthony Bevins, Political Editor, examines the potential for a quiet

Paddy Ashdown last night welcomed the establishment of a high-powered, independent commission to find a different. hroadly proportional, voting

"This announcement marks Liberal Democrat leader said in a statement issued after a meeting of the joint Lah-Lih Cabinet Committee.

The Prime Minister's spokesman said that Tony Blair rats, Mr Straw said it would be had not changed his mind on the issue: he remained "unper- ate system or combination of suaded", but felt that it was right. in line with Labour's manifesto commitment to giving the voters a choice as to whether they wanted a change.

That choice would be offered through a referendum, expected to take place before the next election, on the proposals

retary, said in a Commons writ- geographical constituencies." ten reply that the commission, which is expected to report back by the end of next year. would be chaired, as expected, by Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, the former Labour Cabinet minister and leader of the old Social Democratic Party.

He will have four eminent colleagues: Lord Alexander of Weedon, a Tory peer who is also chairman of the National Westminster Bank; Sir John Chilcot, the outgoing permanent secretary at the Northern Ireland Office; Lady Gould, Labour's former director of organisation; and David Lipsey, an a truly historic moment in Economist journalist, who was British democratic history," the a member of James Callaghan's staff in 1977-79.

Outlining the terms of reference for the commission. agreed to the complete satisfaction of the Liberal Democfree to produce "any approprisystems in recommending an alternative to the present system for parliamentary elections to be put before the people in the Government's referendum.

"The commission shall observe the requirement for broad proportionality, the need for stable government, an extension of voter choice and the mainte-

Jack Straw, the Home Sec-nance of a link between MPs and

Bob Maclennan, the Liberal Democrat's constitutional spokesman, said his party's favoured system, the single transferable vote, would fulfil all those tests, but it is just as likely that the commission will produce a mix-and-match of the alternative vote and the additional member system that could attract a greater consensus of support across Labour and the

Liberal Democrat parties. Under the alternative vote system, constituencies remain as they are, but electors cast their votes by putting first, second. third and other preferences for candidates, and the candidate who eventually gets more than half of votes cast, or redistributed, is elected.

The alternative vote is not a proponional system, but it could be made "hroadly" proportional with an injection of the additional member system, under which electors have two votes. one for a constituency member, and another for a "top-up" candidate from a party list.

Under the single transferable vote, constituencies are enlarged to return up to five MPs. and voters are able to mark preferences for all candidates; the system used in the Republic of Ireland.



Mo Mowlam at a press conference yesterday when she outlined the limits of the proposed new north-south bodies' powers Photograph; Rui Xavier

Irish Foreign Minister forced to eat his words

David Andrews, vesterday withdrew comments on Northern Ireland's future which had upset Unionists, and promised not to repeat them.

It was a rare act of political contrition which followed Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble's call for Mr Andrews' resignation after he spoke of

The Irish Foreign Minister, proposed new north-south institutions having powers "not unlike a government". A meeting between the minister and Unionisis vesterday was variously described as brutal. bruising and nasty. The minister's words had touched on one of the most sensitive issues in the peace process.

It is widely expected that

north-south structures will accountable to government that Gerry Adams is to meet institutions in Northern Ireland form part of any new Anglo-Irish arrangements, but the question of their exact role and powers is being hotly contested. The Secretary of State Mowlam, said yesterday: "There are likely to he north-

and the Republic." The terms used by Mr An-

drews clearly went far heyond arrangements laid out in this for Northern Ireland, Mo carefully-worded description, and as such they sparked Unionist concern. Unionist south structures with real re- sensitivities had already been sponsibility but which are touched by the announcement

Tony Blair in Downing Street before Christmas.

While yesterday's turbulence does not appear to threaten the future of the talks, it was seen as a setback for the new relationship which is tentatively being built between Mr Trimble and the

Councils warned of cash threat to services culate that about £3.5m cuts will asylum and immigration laws. Council tax Increases

and service cuts are threatened by a £1.6bn hole in next year's local authority accounts, the Liberal Democrats warned yesterday. Anthony Bevins, Political Editor, tracks a town hall crisis.

Today's Commons statement on local government spending for 1998-99 could leave schools with a £200m shortfall on basic educational provision. Paul Burstow, the Liberal Democrat spokesman on local government, warned yesterday.

The Government has made additional provision of £835m for schools and the education budget, but Mr Burstow said that no allowance had been made for inflation - estimated at 2.75 per cent.

The Liberal Democrats cal-

have to be found in Oxfordshire, for example - which could mean the loss of nearly 300 teaching posts, or the closure of the Banbury Teachers' Centre. or closure of the music service. with 116 redundancies.

Mr Burstow warned that local authorities would only be able to provide extra money for schools if they were willing to make more drastic savings elsewhere - such as, the police, fire, social services and roads budgets. But his analysis showed that police and fire budgets were more for less. However, all the already heading for a £250m signs are that Labour will not shortfall; environment and pro- provide the cash needed to tective services, for a shortfall of £545m; and social services, a shortfall of £644m.

Those estimates, provided by the Labour-led Local Government Association, could mean severe service cuts for the elderly and disabled, people in not be able to pin new cuts on need of community care, child the Conservatives." protection and those covered by

According to a Liberal Democrat briefing paper, "Seven out of ten authorities will have to tighten eligibility criteria for service provision ... six out of ten will have to increase charges for such services above the rate of inflation, while four out of ten will have to charge for services previously provided free"....

Mr Burstow said: "Tomorrow, the Labour Government has its first chance to show that they are no longer willing to make council taxpayers pay tion forecasts, and will expect councils to slash police, fire and care services in order to fund even stand-still budgets for schools ... Any cuts on Tuesday will be Labour cuts - they will





PCC can

be sued

privacy

The Press Complaints Com-

mission is to lobby the Gov-

ernment to exclude newspapers

from provisions of the Bill to in-

corporate the European Con-

vention on Human Rights into

terday from Lord Irvine, the

Lord Chancellor, that the Bill,

as drafted, will allow individu-

als to take the PCC to court to

opinion had changed his previ-

ous assumption that the or-

ganisation would not be

covered by the Bill as a public

will be held to be a 'public au-

thority' under the Human

Rights Bill when it becomes

"I had earlier thought that

law," he said in a statement.

it prohably would not, but an

opinion given to the PCC by

David Pannick QC persuaded

This means that claimants

me that it probably will be."

"It is possible that the PCC

Lord Irvine said new legal

protect their privacy.

It follows confirmation yes-

over

British law.

authority.

7/POLITICS

Shy benefits rebels make way for 'Tone's clones'

A predicted Commons rebellion over cuts in ione parents' benefits failed to materialise last night as unhappy backbenchers stayed away. Fron Abroms, Political Correspondent, watched as loyal Labour MPs queued up to support the Government line.

Lahour rebels stayed away in droves from yesterday's debate on benefits and welfare reform. Instead, the benches were packed with eager, newly-elected MPs anxious to win Brownie points from party whips.

Earlier in the day, Downing Street had ruled out suggestions that it might delay the implementation of the cuts, clearly relishing the opportunity to display strength in the face of left-wing protests.

rs Photograph Ru. X., e.

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There could still be a rebellion when the Government's measures are put to the vote next Wednesday. But last night's Conservative motion attacking Helen Brinton, the ultra-luyal ministers for implementing the previous government's cuts won no support from Lahour.

At times, the lack of opposition on the Lahour side was almost comical. "Tone's clones" rose one after another to support the Government until the social security spokesman, Jain Duncan Smith, accused the whips of having orchestrated their efforts.

There were even claims that Ken Livingstone, a vocal opponent of the changes, had phoned to say he would have heen present but had twisted his ankle on the Tube, though these could not be confirmed. Others simply went missing without explanation.

Among the new Labour recruits who packed the chamber to hack the beleaguered Secretary of State for Social Security. Harriet Harman, was Caroline Flint, MP for Don

"I am very proud that new Labour is heginning to prioritise work over welfare, opportunity over waste. This government will face up to the growing numbers of women who need and want to work," she said.

A stream of others were anxious to intervene during Mr Duncan Smith's speech, each apparently armed by the whips with a piece of information on his earlier pronouncements on welfare or on the Conservative government's record.

Mr Duncan Smith accused MP for Peterborough, of having heen given an "intervention list" by the whips.

When in opposition, Labour front benchers had gone around the country making wild promises, including pledges to reverse lone parent benefit cuts, and they should now he held to account, he argued.

"It wasn't so much a case of



Driving force: Harriet Harman arriving at the House of Commons for yesterday's debate on welfare reform

Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

 a UK-wide programme of empty promises seven days a week, No wunder the hackbenchers have smelt a rat," he said.

The only dissent on the government side came from the a wet Wednesday in Dudley as left-winger. Dennis Skinner.

"Some lone parents don't conference to be held next have been written off to a life want to work. They want to look month on a national childcare of dependency on income supafter their children and there-strategy - a measure which apport. Lone mothers want to fore should not be penalised bepeared to have been hastily cause they take that honourable stance," he said.

"Too many lone mothers children," she said.

work for the same reason as arranged, as no date or venue married women work - for a had been fixed for the event. better standard of living for their

The only opposition came from the Liberal Democrats. Their spokesman, David Rendel, said the Government could

afford to reverse the cuts. The Government won the vote by 336 to 131.

who believe that their right to privacy has been hreached by the press will be able to take the PCC to court for failing to pro-Lord Irvine said that it

should be welcomed by the press - although he warned that the PCC would have to develop tougher powers to curh newspapers that infringed the Convention.

In particular, he suggested that could include the power to order payment of compensation to claimants whose privacy was hreached. "This is good news for the press, because the courts will regard the PCC as the primary body to provide effective protection to people who suffer from press abuses," he said.

"Provided, therefore, that self regulation is strong and effective the courts will not intervene with injunctions."

— Michael Streeter Legal Affairs Correspondent

Jowell gears up for round three in Formula One tobacco advertising battle

Tessa Jowell, public health minister, will today face her third grilling by MPs over Formula One's exclusion from an EU ban on tobacco advertising. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, reports she has new figures to support her case.

Tessa Jowell will he on the defensive today when she is challenged by MPs over Britain's demand that Formula One should he given permanent exclusion from the EU han.

The public health minister will be going to the European Council on Thursday facing criticism that she risks wrecking a European-wide deal by holding out for the exclusion of

and have summoned her to face fresh questioning today. Two committees said claims that 50,000 Jobs would be lost were exaggerated. Ms Jowell is expected on

Thursday to offer a compromise to accept a ban on tobucco sponsorship of motor racing hut delay it for ten years. The select committees for

F1. Last week Labour MPs health and European legisla-

joined in attacking the policy. tion both said it should be treated like other sports, which are years. She is unlikely to set out Britain's negotiating position hetore the EU meeting.

Ms Harman announced a

Some Tory MPs were preparing to accuse her of hreaking Commons rules today hy failing to deliver a menurandum on the cost of implementing a han. But Whitehalf sources said she would be go-

ing to the committee armed the Government was forced to the hearing of the health comwith a new paper, setting out faced with a han in four to five the costs to different sections of industry, including the hillboard hoarding trade, of complying with an EU han.

Ms Jowell vehemently denied allegations last week that Tony Blair howed to the pressure from the motor racing lobby after the party received a donation of Lim from Bernie Ecclesione, the head of F1. But

announce that the party was returning the donation to avoid further emharrassment. She has been called back by

the European legislation committee to face further cross-examination because MPs were dissatisfied with her replies. Some of the questioning by

Labour MPs was the most hostile faced by a minister from her own side since the election. At over tohacco advertising.

mittee, Ms Jowell was told she was "defending the indefensihle". Audrey Wise, the Labour MP, said the motor racing industry was getting its way because of its influence.

The health committee in its report also reminded Ms Jowell that as one of its members she had signed up to a report criticising the Tory Government

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Law reform leads to rough justice fears

An obscure clause tacked onto the Criminal Procedure Act last year will have the effect of stopping investigations into miscarriages of justice. Paul McCann, Media Correspondent, asks if a measure aimed at paedophiles will end

Lawvers, journalists and programmes like Trial and Error which investigate miscarriages of justice are threatened by a new law which makes disclosing the evidence from a court case a contempt of court.

up keeping the innocent

behind bars.

The Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act, which became law last year, was creat-

ed to change the rules covering the disclosure of police evidence to defence counsel in criminal trials. Clause 17 of the Act now makes all the material given to the defence confidential to the case. To disclose it to outside parties is now a contempt of court.

"I am very, very concerned that this will close us down." says David Jessel, the broadcaster and veteran investigator of miscarriages of justice. "When we do investigations it is through a thorough reading of the disclosed material that we can build our case. Now we are not going to be able to do that."

Jim Nichol, the solicitor who fought to get the Bridgewater Three released, is seeking a barristers' opinion on the new law and plans to ask for a meeting with the Home Secretary.

"This could be the end of investigative journalism ioto convictions," said Mr Nichol. "And it slipped through without any-

one fighting it." The Act lifts confidentiality on material used in open court, but Mr Nichol believes this is inadequate for reopening an investigation. "You very seldom see any material in open courts. you hear evidence, you don't see full statements, you don't see fingerprints or all the other against the Guildford Four and material we get in evidence.

"This law now makes it an offence for a prisoner to send me his case files so that I can look into his case. If I read those files I'm committing an offence."

The clause was included in the Act at a late stage in its passage through Parliament because of concerns about paedophiles using sexually explicit evidence from their cases as pornography. Stories in the press indicated that some of the material was being exchanged with other convicted paedophiles.

It was also intended to preveot prisoners using the material to blackmail witnesses and other defendants.

The Act allows for a prisoner to apply to a court to be able to release his evidence, but Mr Nichol believes this just adds another barrier to overturning miscarriages of justice: "These cases only get reopened because prisoners circulate their evidence to whoever will look, to see if someone will take it up. It is impossible to take up a prisoner's case and go through the process if you haven't seeo all

the evidence. Without access to court documents, programmes like Rough Justice, World in Action and Trial and Error would never have overturned the cases the Bridgewater Three.

Diabetes drug withdrawn

5,000 people io the UK was withdrawn yesterday after being people in the United States and

The drug, troglitazooe (brand name Romozin), was launched two months ago as a new treatment for type-2 diabetes, which accounts for more the company had acted promptthan one million of the 1.4 millioo cases of diabetes in Britain.

Glazo Wellcome, which markets the drug in the UK, said there had been 130 cases should cootinue to take their of liver damage reported world- medication to cootrol their didrug for more than three to arrange alternative treatmonths. All had occurred, along ment. Worried patients can obfailure, in the US and Japan. The company said it was voluntarily withdrawing the drug

A drug for diabetes taken by while it examined the data.

The problem emerged a mooth ago, when Glazo Welllinked with the deaths of six come wrote to all doctors advising a liver function test for all new patients being prescribed the drug. Simon O'Neil, of the British Diabetic Associatioo, said there had to be a balance between risks and benefits, and ly on the reports of side effects. Their decision to withdraw it now is probably wise," he said.

The association said patients ide among the 370,000 pa- abetes, but should see their tients who had been taking the own doctors as soon as possible with the six deaths from liver tain information from the BDA Careline on 0171 636 6112.

— Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

Al Fayed to challenge plans for phone mast near estate

Mohamed Al Fayed, owner of Personal Communications. Mr Harrods, has won permission to challenge plans to erect a 22mhigh mast for mobile phones near his estate at Oxted, Surrey.

A High Court judge yesterday gave him leave to seek judicial review on the grounds that the go-ahead for the tower, which will have six antennae and four dishes, was "unlawful, null and void and of no effect".

His QC Ian Croxford argued that objections based on a risk health were never properly put before Tandridge District Council before it granted planning permission in July to Mercury

Justice Moses ruled there was "an arguable case" which should go to a full hearing. But he refused to make a court order banning the erection of the mast before the hearing, expected to be in six to 12 months'

After yesterday's hearing. Mr Al Fayed's solicitor, Alan Meyer, said the judge's decision would provide an opportunity to air growing world-wide concern about the possible risk to buman bealth from exposure to low frequency radio waves from mobile phone masts.

DAILY POEM

Adlestrop

by Edward Thomas

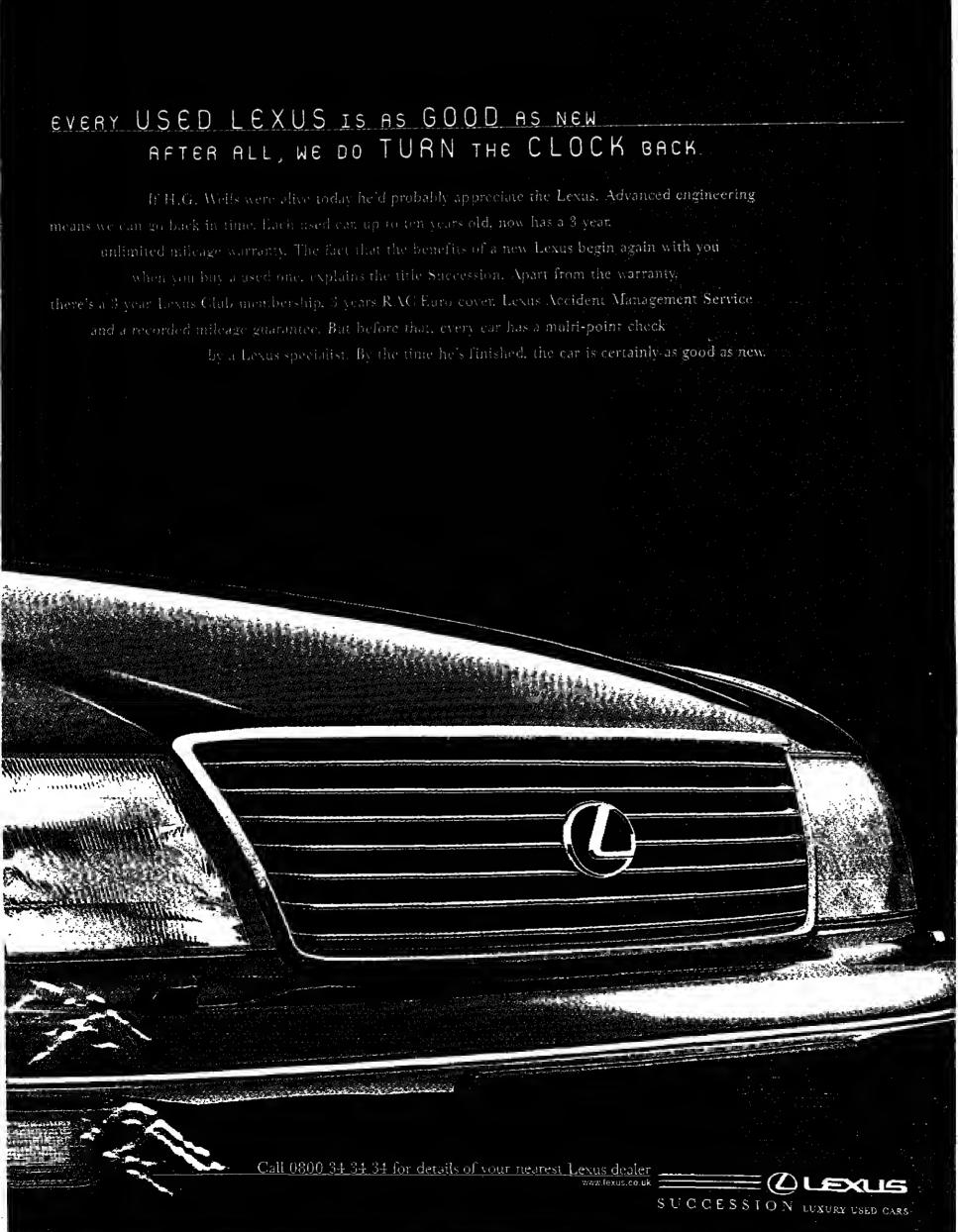
Yes. I remember Adlestrop -The name, because one afternoon Of heat the express-train drew up there Unwontedly. It was late June.

The steam hissed. Someone cleared his throat. No one left and no one came On the bare platform. What I saw Was Adlestrop - only the name

And willows, willow-herb, and grass, And meadowsweet, and haycocks dry. No whit less still and lonely fair Than the high cloudlets in the sky.

And for that minute a blackbird sane Close by, and round him, mistier, Further and farther, all the birds Of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire

This week's poems come from the seventh edition of Pe on the Underground, edited by Gerard Benson, Judith C naik and Cicely Herbert (Cassell, £12.99). Emulated are the world since its launch in 1986, Poems on the Undergo now has counterparts on transport systems in cities Moscow to Adelaide, as well as oo the Internet.



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Gerard Bernen, John

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British Gas

Anti-sleaze

on colleges

spotlight falls

.....

lecturer suspended by his college after raising concerns over propriety. Lucy Ward, Education Correspondent, finds the anti-sleaze searchlight trained on colleges as never before.

education are to

examine the case of a

Guido D'Isidoro is awaiting a disciplinary hearing ar Llandrillo College, North Wales, ar which he could face dismissal. His crime was to ask questions - first Welsh Office - over the propriety of the principal and finance director being husband

Though he did not suggest any financial wrongdoing, Mr velopment co-ordinator, was concerned that day-to-day management of a £15m annual hudget should rest primarily with two such closely linked indi-

An inquiry ordered by collast July by the college's auditors Price Waterhouse examined whether impropriety had arisen as a result of the relationship between Huw Evans and his wife Gill. After the report found no evidence of wrongdoing, the matter was considered closed pending Mr D'Isidoro's hearing.

But while the college and Welsh Office have all but shut their files on the case, members of the Commons education semore details as part of a review of governance and funding in further education.

Margaret Hodge, chairwoman of the committee, told The Independent she would be writing to the Welsh colleges' funding and inspection quango

est in a series of events turning the spotlight on probity and govemance in further education.

Roger Ward, chief executive of the sector's representative body, the Association of Col-

MPs investigating further healthcare firm and a lecturing

In a Commons dehate on further education last month, John Cryer, MP for Hornchurch, complained to Kim Howells, lifelong learning minister, over the "considerable power with few checks and balances on its execution" wielded by principals since colleges were made independent of local authority control in 1993.

Mr Crycr cited the case of Braintree College in Essex where the principal and chief executive Martin Bates is also clerk to the college's governing body, and of Doncaster College in South Yorkshire where the at the college and then ar the clerk was until recently Nina Ashurst, wife of the principal, Terry Ashurst.

Under guidance from the Further Education Funding Council, the clerk has a key role in advising governors on pro-D'Isidoro, principal lecturer in cedures, alerting the governing husiness studies and staff de- body if it risks overstepping its powers and ultimately whistleblowing to a higher authority if

governors act irregularly. He or she should "remain detached from the discussions and decisions of the governing body and its committees" and lege governors and carried out must "be able to preserve independence from the management of the college", The guidance clearly states that the clerk should not be a member of the governing body.

Braintree College confirmed to The Independent on Friday that its principal, who has been both clerk and a member of the governing body since 1993, is to srep down as clerk following a meeting with governors early last week to discuss Mr Cryer's lect committee have called for comments. However, despite offering to leave the role immediately, he is to stay as clerk until a replacement is appointed.

At Doncaster, advertisements have been placed for a new clerk, though Mr Ashurst insisted his wife had always intended to step down. There was of staff dependent on the principal for promotion took on the role, he said.

As the select committee prepares to report on further education next spring, Baroness leges, is the subject of an inde- Blackstone. higher education pendent inquiry following minister, is considering changes allegations that he had used his to the articles and instruments position to promote a private hy which colleges are governed. Hamilton then convened a special



Fashion statement: A customer trying on a sari at Damini's, Deepak Mohindra's flagship store in East Ham

Asian fashion crosses cultural divide

Yesterday saw the launch of the biggest 'Asian Cultural Festival' ever with the BBC, the event's organiser,

welcoming the 'Asian Age'. Randeep Ramesh examines the success story and wonders when the appeal of the East will reach the High Street.

British Asians are likely increasingly to influence Britain's fashion and music, if you believe the publicity surrounding the BBC's Mega Mela.

There are signs that the marketers may be right. Earlier this year. an unknown 17-year-old girl singer - Amar - was snapped up by Warn-

er for a £3m, five-album deal. Two of London's hippest nightclubs. Anokha and Outcaste, have seen Asian conture handed the casting vote in the capital's style council.

Bashir Ahmed, a St Martin's graduate and design director for Apartment clothes, says it is the white mainstream that have discovered Asian fashion", "The kids in the clubs are predominantly English. Once it was known Jarvis Cocker came down to Anokha, you saw them turn up in sari tops and jeans."

The appeal is likely to increase with the burgeoning British Asian population. The London Research Centre estimates the capital's ethnic minorities will grow by 40 per cent in 15 years. Added to this is the

present, a lifth of Asian males have white partners.

But white the swish of the shalwar may be heard on the catwalk or in nightelubs, it is still unlikely to be seen on the high streets.

Deepak Mohindra sells Asian fashion to predominandy Asian customers in East Ham and Leicester. Despite developing his family business from a single grocery storeto a fashion empire with sales of £1.6m. Mr Mohindra's ambitions may force him to expand elsewhere.

"After my new store opens in Southall next year, I can't see how I can expand further in the UK. My next shop will be in New Jersey where there is a large Indian community." The problem, Mr Mohinmixing of cultures by marriage. At dra says, is he has yet to find a high

street store to take his brand as a line of clothing.

Curiously, it appears white shopkeepers can sell Asian designs to white audiences. Paul Garrod sells 'Europeanised" designs from his four Chandni Chowk stores in the West Country, "Our customers are mainly white, but they have seen the world and like wearing Indian-style ctothes," he says.

Experts believe, however, that Eastern designs will eventually come to Brirish retailers. "It is about latent demand. Look at the parallel with food. Ten years ago, you would need to go to Leicester or Wembley to buy spices for a decent curry," says Ram Gidoomal, author of the UK Muharajalis. "Now you can go to Sainsbury's."

Spencer rules out early deal

The Spencer divorce hearing will continue today after officials quashed speculation of a possible settlement.

The two legal teams were meeting last night to discuss evidence in the case and were not about to thrash out a deal behind closed doors, a spokeswoman for Earl Spencer said.

Amid confusion outside the court in Cape Town, Shelley-Anne Claircourt backtracked on earlier statements and said: "The case goes on. Discussions are taking place with respect to the striking out of letters thar were discussed on the first day of court. They are not going beyond that...

Later, Earl Spencer's lawyer. Leslie Weinkove, refused to comment on whether a settlement had been discussed between the two legal teams.

One hour earlier the hearing had been adjourned until 10am today for what a court official described as "housekeeping".

Bur speculation continued of a settlement because the adjournment came just before the first of the high-profile witnesses were ro give evidence for Lady Spencer,

Lady Spencer was due to go in the witness box following her lawyers' claims that her estranged husband had affairs with up to 12 women while she was in a clinic with an eating disorder.

Her father John, 66, a former RAF officer, was also expected to give evidence along with the Earl's former lover, Chantal Collopy.

The hearing is to decide if the divorce case will be heard in England or in South Africa where any settlement is likely to he less favourable to Lady Spencer.

The hearing this morning centred on discussions about how much Lady Spencer. 32, would get in a divorce settlement.

She has requested a clean break settlement of about £3.75m to prevent constant wrangling about payments.

The Earl, 33, who the court heard had a personal fortune of about £6m, is offering a lump sum of £300,000. £30,000 maintenance a year and other items including her home in a plush suburb of Cape Town. Any maintenance for the couple's four children would be worked out separately.

Lady Spencer's legal team said today that she wanted a clean break so she was "not standing at the gate like Oliver Twist".

During cross-examination. Nicholas Mostyn QC, an expert on family law and who is appearing for Earl Spencer, said future payments were secure because of his wealth.

He said: "The money is as secure as the Bank of England. It comes from his landed estates, it's absolutely guaranteed."

Mr Mostyn also said that the Earl was angered by what had been said during th opening of the case when the affairs were alleged.

He said: "I have been in the room when he has expressed considerable upset at the way the case has been conducted thus far."

The Earl was said to be determined to have his day in court to rebut the allegations and his spokeswoman has said there had been some "pretty sensational allegations made against him".

Irish rape victim prepares for abortion

no more risk of impropriety if The 13-year-old Irish gypsy girl who hearing of the five-judge court for and live in extreme poverty in dilap- their daughter in care since she wanted after efforts to block it by

her parents and pro-life groups failed. The parents' lawyer indicated earlier that they wanted an eleventhhour appeal at the Supreme Court in

Duhlin to prevent the abortion. But in mid-morning their lawyer said this would not proceed. With conflicting signals, Chief Justice Liam

The re-emergence of the a principal's spouse acted as is pregnant after being raped was last confirmation of this from all parties' idated caravans on a roadside camp. September, Following legal advice the

girl to have the abortion in England. Her parents first favoured a termination, but changed their minds after meeting pro-life campaigners. They financed last week's unsuccessful High Court bid to overnum the

initial Children's Court approval for The girl's parents have 12 children lifting of the order that has placed

The way now seems clear for the on Friday Mr Justice Geoghegan said their behaviour after the alleged rape had not corresponded with what was expected of parents "in such

> appalling circumstances". On Sunday the girl blocked a meeting with her parents when they refused to let a social worker attend.

The parents now plan to seek the

Archbishop of Dublin at the weekend turned down the father's request for the Church to fund a Supreme Court appeal. The case brought pressure on

Bertie Ahern's government to end confusion surrounding Irish abortion law left by the 1983 "pro-life" consututional amendment giving mother and unborn child an "equal right to

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MARKET PER WHILL

Kyoto gets off to an icy start

An agreement on measures to save the world from global warming appeared further away than ever last night with the European Union accusing the United States of trying to find loopholes. Richard Lloyd Parry reports from the first day of the Kyoto climate summit.

Icy exchanges between European and American officials and few signs of feasible compromise signalled an unpromising first day of the Kyoto summit.

The only hope for the conference ~ known as COP3 or the Third Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, to give it its full name - appears to lie in a last-minute agreement by ministers, including the deputy prime minister, John Prescott, who will arrive in Kyoto for high-level negotiations at the weekend.

Despite months of intensive preparation. wide differences still exist between the participants at the conference which is taking place in this ancient Japanese city and which aims to reach a world-wide agreement on reducing greenhouse gases.

The Europeans, along with small island states who feel especially threatened by rising sea levels, are pressing for the most radical measures: the EU wants a 15 per cent reduction in 1990 levels of green house gas emissions by 2010.

The US, the world's biggest producer of ozone-depleting gases, has much more conservative goals - the stabilisation of gas emissions at 1990 levels, as late as 2012. Australia, as a hig exporter of coal with rising domestic fuel consumption, wants to increase its own emissions; the conference's host, Japan, takes a conciliatory middle line. although it has moved closer to the US.

The points of disagreement are many and technical, ranging from the number of gases to be included in the final deal, to the role played by forests in absorbing carbon dioxide. But controversy yesterday focused on what is known as the EU "buhhle", whereby European pollution is considered collectively rather than on the basis of individual countries.

Under the EU's proposal less advanced members such as Greece and Portugal could increase their output of pollutants, while countries such as Britain and Germany compensate with more drastic improvements. The Americans and Australians insist that this is unfair, and that if the European states can adopt different targets this option should be available to other countries.

For the first time yesterday, the US incorporated into its official position the concept of "differentiation" - in other words. different targets for different countries, rather than a single percentage reduction adopted by everyone. Japanese officials welcomed this as a sign of "flexibility", but a European spokesman denounced it as a ploy which would dilute the drive for comprehensive action, and result in a smaller overall reduction of pollulants.

"We've detected flexibility, but it's in the wrong direction," said Pierre Gramegna, Luxembourg's ambassador in Japan, and whose country holds the EU presidency. "Our impression is that the game is to find ever more loopholes, and that is a bad omen. The beginning of the conference is not very encouraging."

Even the Japanese spokesman, Toshiaki Tanabe, said that he was no more than "cautiously optimistic with regard to the outcome of the conference". He said: "Japan is trying to force the US to increase its reduction margin, but also we have to be realistic. I don't think they'll increase until the very end."

Hopes now rest with the meeting of ministers which hegins next Monday, and on a round of telephone diplomacy hetween heads of government, Mr Prescott has made support for an idea which officials refer to as the "window of credibility". This refers next week, and its ratification by legislatures before which it will have no legal force.

If Congress becomes less dominated by Republicans, it may become easier for the US to take a softer line. In the meantime, developing nations will have the opportunity to propose their own cuts - another US demand. Presented in such a way, all sides could claim an agreement as a victory - while the Europeans emphasised nuself immediately bound by their terms.



Ground-breaking: Natural gas and mud bursting from the earth near an oil well in Aceh province in Sumatra, Indonesia, after a leak had forced a drill to be withdrawn. Around 1,400 people had to flee their homes after explosions damaged 200 houses

Whitehall car budget equals spending on pollution

chauffeur-driven government cars as it does on monitoring air pollution, figures have to the lag between an agreement in Kyoto revealed. Now ministers are facing calls to get on their bikes.

> As world leaders deliberate in Kyoto on how best to tackle global warming, Norman Baker, the Liberal Democrat MP for Lewes, has a small suggestion to make on

how the Mother of Parliaments can help. Part of the Government's £4.1m budget for ministerial limousines could be put to better use, he says. The move might even ease the need to spend £4.6m every year merical targets, the US would not feel it- on checking the quality of the air we hreathe. "Are the Government contribut- ministers have come out as cyclists, although

two intercontinental journeys drumming up Britain spends almost as much on ing to the problem or to the solution? Clearly they are still pursuing their own car economy." he says.

Mr Baker received the figures for 1996-97 in answer to parliamentary questions, though the Government Car and Despatch Agency preferred to set out its spending in a private letter rather than a public writ-

Although the answers refer to spending under the last government, there is no hig reason to believe spending on ministerial cars has been cut under Labour; in fact two Tory ministers, Sir George Young and David Willetts, rode bicycles. So far no Labour

there are moves to incorporate a cycling allowance into MPs' salaries.

The higgest-spending department last year was the Northern Ireland Office, which used £318,344 of the taxpayers' money on ferrying its top people around. Next came the Department of Trade and Industry, with £312,312, while third on the list of big spenders was the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, which spent £283,972. The Department Transport, Environment and

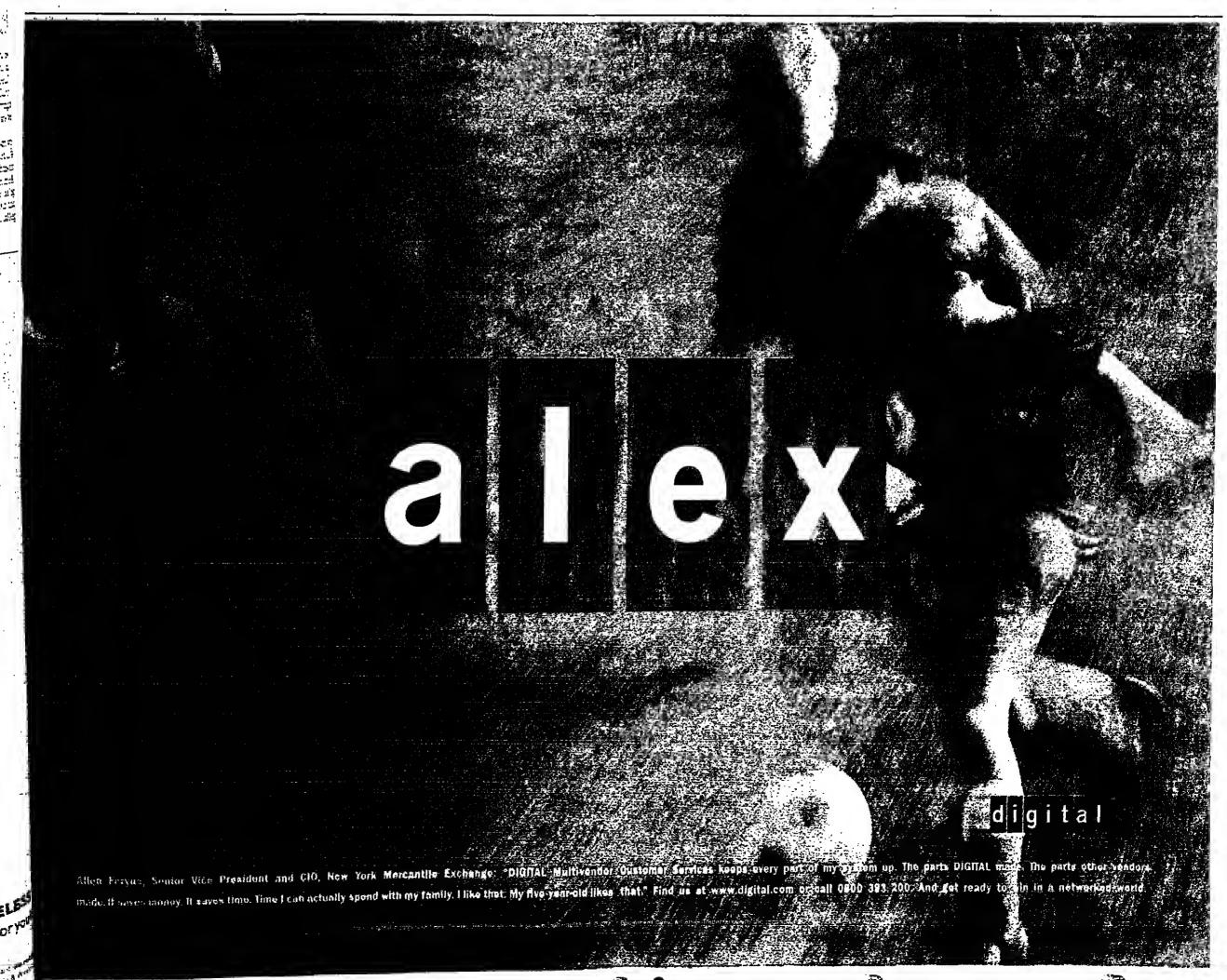
the Regions was fourth on £272,844. The gold star for environmental correctness went to the Ministry of Defence, which scraped by on just £47,268, far less than much smaller departments such as the

Attorney General's office, which spent £90,584, and the government chief whips, who spent £96,356. The Prime Minister's Office came in eighth with £240,188.

An official at the Department of Transport, Environment and the Regions said that John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, had been known to travel by Tube.

"If he's got visits to various places he will go by train. We do have an integrated transport policy." she said.

Others said it was easier to be green in opposition than it was in government. "It's somewhat hard to carry red boxes around on the back of a bicycle," one official said. - Fran Abrams, Political Correspondent



12/FOOD STANDAR

Protesting beef farmers send cheap Irish imports packing to a watery grave

The French approach to agricultural disputes came to Holyhead yesterday. Farmers in North Wales, angry at cheap beef imports from ireland and the hardships caused by the BSE ban on exports, stopped lorries arriving from the Republic and threw boxes of beefburgers into the harbour. Tony Heath witnessed the carnage.

Irish beefburgers worth £70,000 swilling around in Holyhead harbour yesterday were testimony to the anger of Welsh farmers complaining that they were heading for the rocks because of poor livestock prices.

The protest coincided with the publication of Government figures which showed that British farmers' income this year is forecast to be 35 per cent lower than in 1996.

The 40-tonne cargo was stolen when around 600 protesters forced open the doors of one of several Irish lorries arriving in the North Wales port easy pot of gold in Brussels, on board the Stenna Explorer.

blocked and the protesters had spiked barriers capable of shredding tyres in reserve. The Secretary of State for

Wales, Ron Davies, and leaders of both the National Farmers' Unioo and the Farmers' Unioo of Wales, were swift to condemn the action. Mr Davies sympathised over the plight of beef farmers hit by the strong pound and the export ban resulting from the BSE crisis, but he coodemoed the Holyhead action. "Anyone who committed a criminal act should he

Boh Parry, president of the FUW, who farms on Anglesey, was appalled. However, he warned: "The government will have to take notice. If they don't, God knows what will

prosecuted," he said.

Sir David Naish, NFU president, described the events which lasted uotil daybreak yesierday, as counterproductive, "Threats will not solve the problem," he said.

The actions will not win support in Europe from the Council of Ministers, where talks lo end the beef export ban are going oo. The Secretary of State for Agriculture, Jack Cuoningham, said: "There is no waiting to be picked up on be-

The route from the docks was half of farmers. Violence and the destruction of legitimate products will not belp to resolve the situation,'

Around 20 police officers were at the scene but no arrests were made. The events followed a meeting in the nearby market town of Gaerwen.

When the ferry docked the protesters were ready. They refused to allow through meat lorries but let other freight pass. Lorry drivers approaching the port to embark for Ireland were held by police outside the town. Daniel Hodges, of the Road Haulage Association, said that blockade tactics witnessed in Fraoce seemed to be spreading. "The last thing our members need is similar action here," he said.

As if to underline farmers' concerns, Welshpool market the largest in Wales - yesterday reported the lowest level of business for years with stock being returned to farms unsold. One farmer said: "A year ago I was getting £380 to £420 for an animal. Today I'd be lucky to get £270 for a similar beast.

The protest carries echoes of 1974 when the port of Holyhead and the railway linking it to the national network were hoth blockaded by farmers protesting at the import of live cattle from the Republic.



Steak out: the Holyhead pilot navigates his way through a sea of beefburger boxes hurled into the water by farmers

A full-scale public inquiry into the Tories' handling of the BSE crisis is to be announced by the Government. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent; says it is a victory for the

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Tory handling of BSE crisis to go before public inquiry

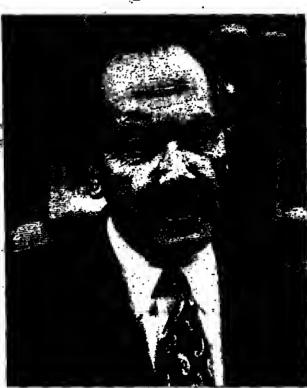
families of the CJD victims but will not satisfy Weish farmers who dumped Irish beefburgers into the sea.

Ministers are likely to announce the inquiry before Christmas. News of the move emerged as the Government faced renewed protests from farmers in Wales. who have been dumping beefburgers into Holyhead docks as a share reminder that the beef ban still has oot been lifted.

Jack Cunningham, the Minister for Agriculture, who yesterday had to answer the farmers' protests, has secured Downing Street backing for the inquiry. Senior Government sources have told The Independent that agreement could on the detailed terms of refer-

It will be separate from the Department of Health inquiry into the disclosure that three people may have been infected with CID from transplants from a patient, who died and was discovered to be suffering from the disease after a post-mortem . examination.

The aim of the inquiry will be to learn the lessons from the handling of the crisis which - in spite of repeated assurances -. has still falled to lift the EU beef ban. But there is also a determination among ministers to answer criticism for the deaths associated with BSE and the massive cost of the subsidies. which have run into billions of



lack Cunningham: Convinced of need for full inquiry into Tories' handling of affair, despite Downing St misgivings

are killed. With BSE we have had more than 20 die from CID, be reached in the oext 10 days and hillions lost in compensation and we have had nothing." said a Cabinet source.

> The latest estimates show BSE will cost Britain a further £3.4bo before the millennium -1.5bn in 1996-97; £930m in 1997-98; £563m in 1998-99 and £488m in 1999-2000, with some offset by EU rebates. More than 1.2 million cattle have been slaughtered under the 30month scheme.

Criticisms levelled at the last Government include the following charges: that it failed to supervise adequately the rendering industry; it failed to ensure an effective ban on the feeding of mean-and-bone meal to ruminants such as cattle; it failed to respect the national prohibitive legislation outlawing imports of meal from the UK;

Japan

USA

thing related to BSE in its geoeral inspections of slaughterhouses; and it did oot display sufficient zeal in monitoring the maintenance of the embargo on

meat and by-products. Britain and the European Commission were attacked in a European Parliament committee of inquiry for cootinuing to allow the export of animal feedstuffs that could not legally be fed to cattle in this country, and narrowly escaped censure. But there was confusion over the selective call scheme agreed at Florence in 1996.

Dr Curningham was given the staunch backing of Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, in pressing for the Government to announce the inquiry, in spite of misgivings within Downing Street and officials at the Ministry of Agri-

mittee oo BSE yesterday, attended by Dr Cunningham, Mr Dobson, Donald Dewar, the Scortish Secretary, and Alistair Darling, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. The details will be fixed at further meetings over the next fortnight.

senior figure will be aped to head the inquiry, and. it is likely to have similar powers as the Scott inquiry into the arms-to-Iraq affair. But ministers are keen to ensure that it is thorough, quick and does oot drag on for the three years which the Scott inquiry took. John Major and the former agriculture minister Douglas Hogg could be among those summoned to give evidence.

Downing Street raised reservations about the inquiry, fearing that it would reopen old wounds and make it more difficult for Britain to persuade the European partners to lift the heef ban in Europe. Dr Cunningham convinced Tony Blair that the inquiry would not hamper the lifting of the beef ban, which would be based oo sci-

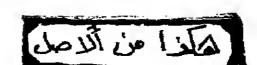
entific opinion. Former Tory ministers have told The Independent that there was no cover-up under John Major's administration, but the inquiry will will investigate whether ministers were at fault in not acting more quickly, and whether there was mishandling of the lifting of the beef ban, which is still in place, in spite of repeated assurances that under the Tories that Europe was moving towards lifting a ban.

Maff officials were also worried about the prospect of an in-quiry into their actions. There may be fears that some could be made scapegoats, but one reason for moving quickly with the inquiry is to ensure that it is held while the Tory responsibility for handling the BSE is still fresh in the public's mind. Ministers were convinced that an inquiry would have to be held and any delay risked associating the hlame with the Labour

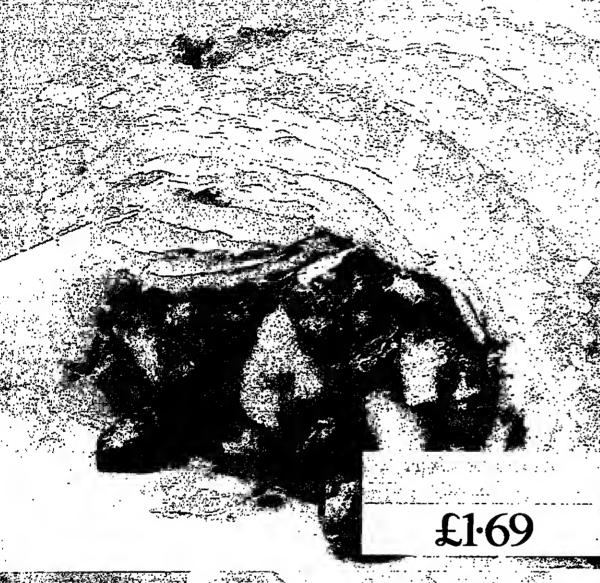
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Currency club may split EU, warns Brown

A new 'economic government' reserved exclusively for members of the single currency could split the European Union, the **Chancellor Gordon Brown**

warned in Brussels yesterday. Kotherine Butler watched mounting anxiety at the erosion of British influence as France and Germany stood firm against his demands for admission to an inner circle to manage the euro.

EU ministers were hattling to avert their first full-scale crisis with the Blair government last night as a rift deepened over a club which would exclude countries not participating in the single currency.

It was the kind of public squabble that recalled the worst hostility of the Tory years. and which Labour had once insisted would never recur once they took office. Mr Brown warned a two-tier Europe

would erode the "common interest" principle which is written into the EU treaty and which has underpinned the Union since its foundation. He protested strongly about the wide range of economic matters which its supporters want the new body, known for now as Euro-X, to cover.

But the resolve of the French and Germans, who have masterminded the new council, appeared stronger than ever as they asserted the right of single currency members to exclude "outsiders" from their club.

Theo Waigel, Germany's finance minister, said: "You cannot be both in and out." The French said they had the full backing of the eleven member states who expect to be in the euro zone in the first wave.

Luxembourg, which holds the EU presidency, and the European Commission were working frantically last night to huild bridges. They presented a compromise which would offer Britain Sweden Denmark and Greece, all of whom are expected to remain outside the single currency in 1999, a guaranteed flow of information on what is discussed inside Euro-X.

But the plan, to allow the European Commission to sit in on discussions and then inform the outs, was rubbished by British officials who said it offered nothing new. "We want a voice at the table not an ear at the door," said one source.

Germany insisted there would be no "discrimination" against the outsiders and said there would be no attempt to set up a secretive body but said there was nothing Britain could legally do to stop Euro-X from

It now seems inevitable that the row will have to be referred to the summit of EU leaders in two weeks' time. "We would expect it to go to the summit," said a British

Britain's dilemma is that short of accepting an unsatisfactory compromise which ensures it is, at best, kept informed of discussions inside Euro-X, there is little it can do. One tactic being hinted at last night is the threat that Britain will invoke the EU treaty to prevent members of the inner circle from using EU-funded buildings or catering facilities for their meetings.

The denial of full participation on the new body, even if it is as the Germans claim "informal", means Britain will have little scope to exert influence over discussions on such matters as hudgetary policy, fiscal harmonisation, labour market reforms, wages policy, and the external exchange rate policy of the Euro-zone.

Under the Franco-German plan. Euro-X's remit would extend far beyond technical management of the currency. An example is the French plan to introduce a 35-hour week, which after the launch of the single currency could have a much greater impact on member economies.

● London (Reuters) — Emu member countries could put Britain under political pressure if the pound should fall sharply against the euro at some stage in the future, Rohin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday. Questioned by Commons Foreign Af-

fairs Committee on how much influence Emu members would have over British exchange rate policy, Mr Cook answered that they would have no binding legal powers. Mr Cook was asked whether the pound

might be forced to shadow or follow the

single currency before Britain joined it. "I think the position is that we cannot be legally compelled to do so," he said. But some Emu member states were motivated by "weariness with what they see as unfair

depreciation of other people's currencies. Without doubt if the single currency was to find itself appreciating against sterling, or we were seen to be depreciating, we would come under political pressure."



A Russian fishing through the ice of the frozen Neva river yesterday in St Petersburg, where temperatures fell to -ISC. Many fear the exceptional cold means there is a harsh winter ahead Photograph: Alexander Demianchuk/Reuters

Cyclist bites below the belt

A cyclist angered by an overtaking city bus climbed aboard at the next stop and bit the driver's genitals. Polish prose-

cutors alleged yesterday. The Podgorze district prosecutor in Krakow, south Poland. accused the man of causing bodily harm. The prosecutor said the bus had tried to overtake the cyclist on 9 September and got by after tooting twice.

At the next stop the enraged cyclist got onto the bus and began a row with the driver. Then he beat him, broke his nose, and bit him in the stomach and genitals, the court heard.

- Reuters, Warsaw

Eta's leading political supporters jailed

Spain's Supreme Court jailed the 23 leaders of the pro-Eta Herri Batasuna party for seven years each vesterday for collaboratpected to have a profound impact on the

conflict in the Basque Country. The three judges also fined the accused them from public office for the duration of their sentence. The leaders, who are to appeal to Spain's Constitutional Court were found guilty of distributing an Eta video that showed armed and masked men during last year's general election campaign. They were acquired on more serious charges of apology for terrorism and membership of an "armed hand".

Margarita Mariscal de Gante, the justice minister, said the conviction applied to "some individuals" and was not "the persecution of a political organisation and its because this is part of our sovereignty claim ideas" - which suggests the government

does not intend to ban the organisation. It is the first time in 20 years of HB's legal existence that a legal judgment has recognised a link between the party and armed Basque separatists. HB has always denied the link, saying: "We support Eta's aims but not their methods".

Yesterday's verdict is thought likely to make HB redefine its relationship with the armed organisation, perhaps to assen a

greater autonomy from it. "They're already thinking of a replacement leadership. whether or not the present leaders go to ing with terrorist gunmen, in a verdict ex- jail," said Joseba Eguibar, a leader of the conservative Basque National Party, some weeks ago. "They know, after the massive anti-Eta demonstrations in the summer, that 500,000 pesetas (£2,100) each and banned only their own people will back a protest against a conviction.

> Abel Matutes, the foreign minister, insisted yesterday that Spain would not accept Britain's demand that it should lift military restrictions on Gibraltar. Britain says it will not approve a streamlined Nato structure that would integrate Spain fully into the alliance, unless Madrid allows the movement of aircraft and ships in and out of the colony.

Mr Matutes said Spain's sovereignty claim left him with no room for manocuvre. "We have to maintain the restrictions over the area where the airport is located. We have never accepted Britain's occupation of this area." Nato should have asked for restrictions to be lifted in in 1982 when Spain joined, Mr Matutes said. "No one asked then, or subsequently. You can't ask now just because you're changing the structure. It would imply that Spain had to pay a toll for collaborating in Nato. We cannot accept that."

Citizenship row div France

It will be a little easier to become French following a vote by the National Assembly yesterday. The amendments to the French nationality law - the latest of many - seem harmless enough. But John Lichfield in Paris says they have provoked accusations that both left and right are playing the game of the far-right National

The law used to be simple: if you were born in France, you were French. That princi-ple was progressively abandoned by centreright governments in the 1980s and early 1990s under pressure from unemployment, immigration and Jean-Marie Le Pen's National Front.

According to the present rules, a child born in France, of foreign parents, cannot become French until he or she is 18. Following a stormy debate last week, the National Assembly was expected to vote last night to allow French-born children of immigrants to hecome French at 13. Until then, they would have a quasi-French status as the holder of a "Republican identity card".

The modest changes have disappointed the far-left and green components of Lionel Jospin's coalition, which thought they - and he - had campaigned last May for the restoration of automatic citizenship le droit du sol, or right of the soil. The softening of the law has also angered centreright parties, who say it makes French nationality "too cheap".

Mr Jospin suggested at the weekend that the centre-right parties were pandering to the National Front as part of a possible electoral pact ahead of regional elections in March. On the contrary, said the centreright, it was Mr Jospin who was "cynically" trying to stir up the NF electorate, using the nationality issue to reduce the vote for the "traditional" right next year. François Bayrou, head of the centrist Force Democrat party, accused Mr Jospin of "blowing on the flames" of racism.

Under the present rules, introduced in 1993, children born of foreign parents in France remain foreign until they are 18. To obtain French citizenship, they must declare their wish to do so between the ages of 16

The law has been blamed for deepening the sense of alienation of immigrant children in deprived suburbs of French cities. which have seen increased violence this autumn and winter. (However, the teenagers involved are often second or thirdgeneration French citizens).

Under the new law, foreign parents can apply for French citizenship at 13 for a French-born child who has been living in France continuously since the age of eight. Young people can make the same application, without parental consent, at 16. They can become French citizens from 18 onwards, as long as they have spent a total of five years in France since the age of 11.

ther calls

Turkey and Greece end Aegean feud

Greece and Turkey have tentatively settled a decades-old dispute over how to share the airspace over the Aegean Sea for military flights.

The deal, announced vesterday at a meeting of chiefs-of-staff of Nato nations, must now be endorsed by the political leaders of both Greece and Turkey. It was hailed as a breakthrough by General Klaus Naumann, head of Nato's panel of military chiefs.

The most immediate result was Nato's announcement that it can now set up regional commands in the south-eastern Mediterranean in which Greek and Turkish officers will work side by side, something that has eluded the alliance for decades. "Both nations showed great

flexibility." General Naumann said. His announcement left Britain alone in rejecting Nato's overall new military command structure that would cut the main and regional headquarters from 65 to 24. Britain disagrees with Spain over the status of the Gibraltar airport.

Under the tentative Greek-Turkish accord, the two nations will share control over military flights in the Acgean. They will also consider null and void 1957 documents in which Nato held to a policy of massive retaliation against enemy attacks from the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact. That policy was ahandoned long before the Cold War ended, but the texts have never formally been set aside. Consequently they have loomed large over relations between Greece and Turkey.

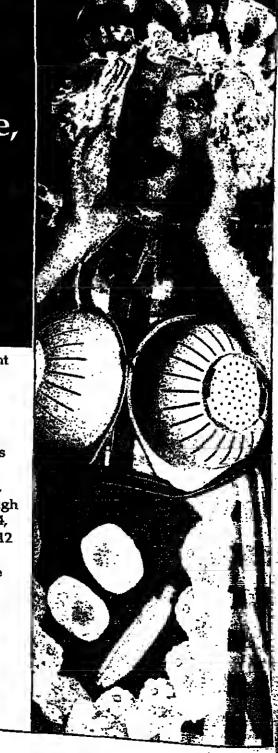
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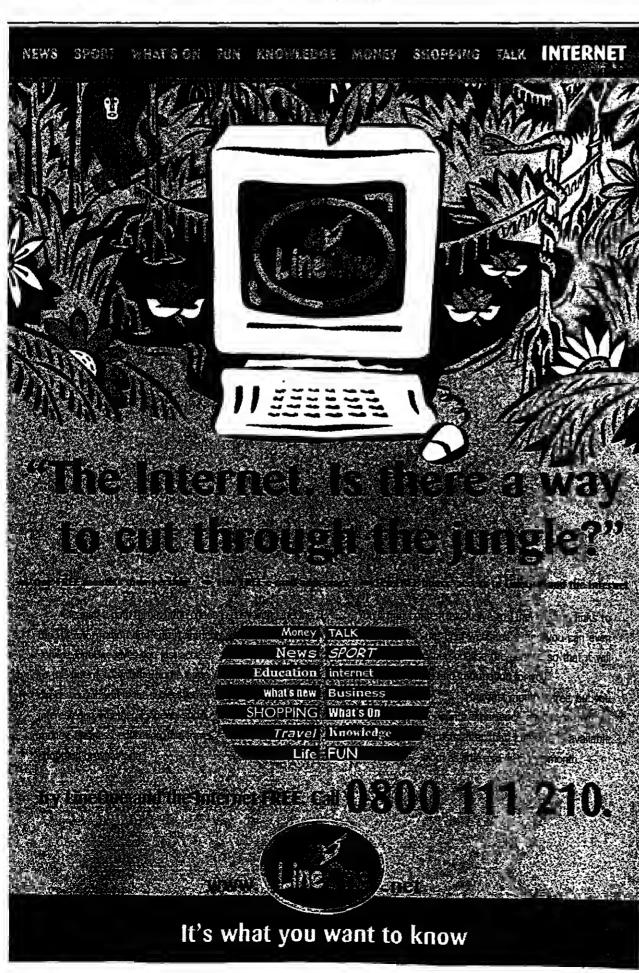
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Stret life: An Albanian working as a prostitute in Milan. The women are 'sold' to pimps in Italy by gangs in Albania for £1,500

Albania's export boom in vice and drugs

Alanian politics may be reurning to normal, but Abanian organised crime is sill flourishing and spreading broughout Western Europe. hdrew Gumbel examines the icious network peddling rostitution and drugs, and what the police are doing to

aildo Vrioni's little empire of prositutes and marijuana was humminualong nicely – until the accident. Just wer a week ago, a rubber speedboa plying the narrow strip of Adriatic between southern Italy and Albnia capsized outside the Italian pot of Brindisi. Five people were re- they were worth and then sold to coered dead from the choppy waters. incuding a five-year-old child. An-

oter 11 were unaccounted for. The coastguard assumed the passagers were the usual desperate te life in Italy. In a way, they were.

hair-raising conversation from Mr Vrioni's car and mobile phone, which they had hugged, and realised what the nature of the desperation was.

"Dammit, a little girl died," Mr Vrioni was overheard saying to his wife and a friend. "But the four girls who survived were prostitutes. That's a relief." Over the next few hours, Mr Vrioni unwittingly gave away details of an intricate organisation that for months has been hringing over young women and drugs for sale in Italy and The rest of Western Europe. One police spokesman described the testimony as "hair-raising".

The prostitutes were bought from their families in Albania for around £800 each, "tried out" by members of Mr Vrioni's gang to see how much pimps in Italy for upwards of £1,500.

Albanian prostitution rackets are notoriously vicious. Those women who were bold enough to speak about their experiences have talked clich of refugees hoping for a bet- of mutilation and torture at the hands of their so-called "protectors".

But then the police picked up some. Two of the four women who survived. Europe successfully dismantled their giving them two weeks to leave the the cansized speedbeat escaped from first international smuggling ring. their hospital beds and vanished, presumably out of fear. The Italian to reach them before the Albanian gangsters take their brutal revenge.

Based on the intercepts, the police arrested 11 people. They were all Albanians, including some, like Mr Vriuni, who were based in Italy, Other police operations and intelligence work suggest there is a great deal of co-operation between the Alhanians and the Italian Matia organisation based on the Adriatic Coast, known as the Sacra Corona Unita. They may not collaborate over prostitution, but they do help each other to traffic in arms and drugs and launder the profits.

For months, the Italian police has been seizing high-grade marijuana grown in the foothills of southern Albania - as much as eight tons in the year to May 1997, according to international police sources.

ing their counterparts elsewhere in sirables immediately (rather than

with a series of 19 arrests in Italy, Germany and Holland. In one direction, police are hunting for them, hoping marijuana was crossing Europe and ending up on sale in Amsterdam coffee-shops. In the other, arms and harder drugs, notably cocaine, were being subsumed into the racket. All

> Sacra Corona Unita. The criminals are exploiting two key koopholes - Italy's inadequate and poorly entorced immigration laws, and high-level corruption that was rampant until elections held this summer.

the key figures arrested were Italians

and were suspected members of the

both sides. In Alhania, the new Socialist government has taken steps to build up a respectable police force and has, for example, recently confiscated a number of speedboats operating out of the port of Vlora.

In Italy, a new immigration law giv-Last week, the Italian police working the police powers to expel unde-

country) is worming its way through parliament,

But progress to beat the criminal gangs is bound to be slow. The new Albanian government's hands are tied by the need to provide its people with a living - something that is l'ar from achievable for the moment, at least by legal means. And the Italians seem unable to take a clear stand on immigration for fear of seeming racist; the new bill is so complex that it is not clear it will achieve much.

The Italians are still scratching the climate of criminality and anarchy their heads over their crazy decision in Albania fuelled by poverty and the to let more than 10,000 Albanians enter the country freely at the height of the armed rebellion that racked their Some progress is being made on country last spring - a decision that, almost certainly provided the criminal gangs with valuable extra manpower. In concert with Tirana, they have decided to expel the last 5,000.

These refugees were supposed to have gone home yesterday. But they are refusing to go willingly, and the Italian government has shown no signs of using force to get rid of them.

Pathologist rejects murder claim over officer's wife

A pathologist yesterday told a muscles, and yet, there have dicate that an RAF officer's wife had been murdered.

Dr lain West, a forensic pathologist based at Guy's Hospital, London, said injuries on the body of Carol Tucker could have been caused in a traffic accident.

Dr West was giving evidence on the 11th day of the trial of Mrs Tucker's husband, Nicholas, 46, an RAF Regiment Squadron Leader based at RAF Honington, Suffolk.

Mrs Tucker, 52, was found face down in a river at Lackford. Suffolk, on 21 July 1995. She died after the car being driven by her husband left the road.

Prosecutors allege that Sqn Ldr Tucker throttled his wife then staged the accident to cover his crime. He denies the allegation.

The prosecution has alleged that blood spots in Mrs Tucker's eyes were an indication that she could have been strangled before being placed in the water.

But Dr West disputed those claims. He told the jury at Norwich Crown Court that there was no evidence of throttling or strangulation.

He said there were no marks on Mrs Tucker's neck to indicate that she had been strangled.

Dr West said it was possible for a person to be strangled and for the killer to leave no marks on his victim's neck. But he said in those cases victims would not have any blood spots (petechial haemorrhaging) in their eyes either.

"I've never seen a case where there has been no marks on the skin, no bruising on the

jury that he found nothing to in- been these petechial haemorrhages." said Dr West. "I have never seen it."

He said an examination of Mrs Tucker's hody revealed no clear cause of death. He said she could have drowned or sue could have choked.

But he said there was no positive indication that she had been subjected to any assault.

"There are no marks that cannot he explained by a traffie accident combined with attempts to retrieve and resuscitate," said Dr West.

"There are no marks which say these are only marks which could have been caused during the course of an assault." Prosecutors say Sqn Ldr

Tucker killed his wife because he was infatuated with 21-yearold Dijana Dudukovic. They say he met Miss Dudukovic while he was serv-

ing with the United Nations in the former Yugoslavia in the first half of 1995. A Royal Marines officer

who worked with Sqn Ldr Tucker in the former Yugoslavia told the court earlier that Sqn Ldr Tucker's relationship with Miss Dudukovic undermined the effectiveness of his team of

But yesterday other servicemen who worked with the RAF officer in the former Yugoslavia described him as professional, hardworking and meticulous.

Captain Raif Tieken, an officer in the Dutch Army said: "I thought he was a professional and hardworking soldier. And I regarded his team as one of the most efficient teams."

The hearing continues today.

Girl aged 13 tells of rape by a friend from school

court that she was raped by a 13- top of mc on the ground." year-old school friend in woodland near a disused railway

The victim, 12 at the time, across a bridge, pushed against by the boy in the Castlecroft Midlands. Giving evidence at Wolverhampton Crown Court through a video link-up, she said: "He grabbed my hand and pulled me across the bridge.

then he put his foot behind

A teenage girl yesterday told a mine, tripped me up and got on

The girl, who cannot be named, said she could not bring herself to tell her parents about the incident last May, but later described how she was dragged told a teacher. The boy, now aged 14, denies rape and indea fence, tripped up and raped cent assault. Another boy, aged 15, also denies indecent asarea of Wolverhampton, West sault relating to the incident.

Peter Cooke, for the prosecution, said the incident could he viewed "as an adolescent sexual experiment which quickly took a more nasty turn".

The trial continues.

Fther calls on son suspected of child murder to surrender or kill himself

Thather of a young man susped of sexually assaulting and miering an 11-year-old girl yerday urged his son to

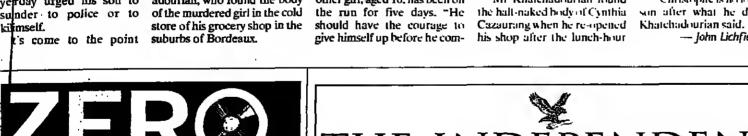
where I hope he commits suicide rather than do any more harm," said Michael Khatchadourian, who found the body

Christophe Khatchadourian. 25, who is also suspected of sexually assaulting and stabbing another girl, aged 10, has been on

ness." the father told the newspaper Aujourd'hui-Le Parisien. Mr Khatchadourian found the halt-naked body of Cynthia

mits any other act of mad- last Thursday. The little girl. who lived nearby, had been shot through the head. "Christophe is no longer my

son after what he did." Mr --- John Lichfield, Paris



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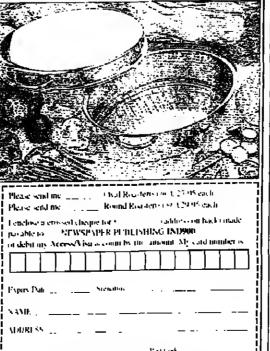
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Turncoat North Korean diplomats reveal black comedy of life in a 'socialist paradise'

North Korean defectors yesterday recountry has sunk under its oppressive food crisis is caused only by nature," he said.

scribed to the Royal Institute of Internaextent to which ordinary North Koreans are influenced by state propaganda.

Joining him at the meeting was Ann Hyun Sung-il, a former diplomat, de- Myeong-chul, a former guard at a political prison camp. He gave a graphic examtional Affairs in London yesterday the ple which illustrated the confusion. describing an incident after he had escaped from North Korea into China, from where

vealed the tragicomic depths to which the ist paradise. For many North Koreans, the asked an old man to help me. He said Kim il-Sung [the late North Korean leader] had made us all heggars - and I hit him. Then I realised what I had done. He was help-

ing me - but I was still hrainwashed." Mr Hyun was a diplomat at the North Korean embassy to Zamhia until his defection last year. He described how the em-

Instead, he and his colleagues indulged in smuggling and black-market trading - including ivory, rhino-horn and precious stones - to raise cash. An embassy minibus asked for funds to be sent from Pyongyang, was commandeered to provide a private bus service to raise money for living expenses. When the emhassy organised a national day reception, the diplomars had no money to

"People think North Korea is a social- he was trying to get to South Korea. "I hassy received no funds from Pyongyang. serve food. They caught fish in rivers and these were typical North Korean dishes."

When the embassy in Mozambique the prompt response from Pyongyang was to close down the embassy entirely. As a result, said Mr Hyun, most diplomats preferred to keep their mouths shut.

Mr Hyun, who is now based in So lakes and served the fish. "They said that Korea, pressed for a tougher line on to North Korea. "Humanism is good. A aid based on humanism will only mainte the system." He argued that North Kora must be forced into much more radidi change. "The only way of saving the North Korean people from disaster is to change the leadership."

r Star witness refuses to damn Winnie

Albertina Sisulu was billed as the witness with the key to Winnie Mandela's downfali. Mory Braid in Johannesburg says her contribution was stunning, but not in the way expected.

Hunif Vally, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission invesigator, seemed completely lahbergasted. "I wasn't expecting this," he said, fumbling or his next question. Neither with perhaps a few notable exreptions - was anyone else.

Yesterday was the sixth day of hearings into allegations that Mrs Mandela and her notorious Aug Mandela United Football Club mer ind an array of assaults in the ate 1980s.

The evidence has piled up to support the theory that Mrs Mandela murdered Soweto loctor Abu-Baker Asvat in Janrary 1989 hecause he knew too nuch about her alleged inolvement in the murder of a 4-year-old activist, Stompie seipci Moeketsi, four weeks reviously.

But Mrs Sisulu yesterday mocked a hole in that one. She ompletely withdrew the infor-Sta nation that damned Mrs Mangro lela, which she recently pai irovided for the BBC docudes nentary Katiza's Journey.

Mrs Sisulu, the nurse in Dr fev Asvat's surgery, yesterday dewit nied that the writing on a cru- Nelson Mandela, and her own

hers. If verified, the card, bełonging to Katiza Cebekulu the so-called missing witness in the Winnie scandal - would have completely undermined Mrs Mandela's alihi in the Stompie case.

There was more disappointment for Dr Asvat's family and Stompie Seipei's mother, Joyce, who have put their faith in the TRC. Mrs Sisulu said she had oo knowledge of a "volcanic row" alleged to have erupted between Mrs Mandela and Dr Asvat hours before his murder.

Mrs Sisulu gave an emotional account of how she heard two shots and Dr Asvat's scream before finding him lying in his consulting room bleeding from his chest and gasping for hreath, Mrs Sisulu claimed she committed at least six murders and the doctor were like mother and son. But she said that if he had trouble with Mrs Mandela he never told her.

Like other ANC figures who have testified. Mrs Sisulu seemed evasive. She was uoable to explain the discrepancy between what she told the BBC and her evidence yesterday.

TRC Commissioner Dumisa Ntsebeza was the only one with the courage to take on an icon. He suggested Mrs Sisulu, like other ANC members, was hedging on anything that would implicate Mrs Mandela.

"Is it because the Mandela and Sisulu families have come along way together ...? "he asked, referring to her husband Walter's lifelong journey with President

cial patient record card was friendship, long ago soured, hers. If verified, the card, be-with Mrs Mandela. "Is it because you wouldn't like to be the ooe identified in South African history to speak about your comrade ... as being involved in the death of Dr Asvat?"

Mr Ntsebeza was rewarded with tears and angry indignatioo. Mrs Sisulu reeled off her long years of sacrifice for the movement. "I am not here to tell lies," she said bitterly. Even Mr Ntsebcza had oot the stomach to cootinue.

Yesterday's hearing was marred by many allegations from Commission investigators and those called to testify witnesses - that Mrs Mandela was intimidating witnesses. TRC investigators have been told by potential witnesses that they have heen visited by "Mama" or called to her Soweto home. One of those witnesses was last night proving "difficult to locate." At the end of yesterday's

hearing few would have hazarded a guess as to the behindthe-scenes machinations. If the ANC leadership is hanging Mrs Mandela out to dry - it opposes her standing for deputy leadership of the party later this month - why did the ANC's Mathews Phosa, the first senior member to show support, turn up yesterday?

More galling still is the question why did he choose to kiss Mrs Mandela immediately after a tearful witness claimed Mrs Mandela had ordered Dr Asvat's murder. The Asvat family were still weeping when the emhrace took place.



A woman suffering from river blindness, one of the pictures in a two-week exhibition at Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral Photograph; Tom Stocking

Short draws attention to Africa's scourge of river blindness

River blindness is the fourth most common cause of blindness in the world. Seventeen million Africans are infected with the disease. And yet, it can easily be be controlled. A relatively simple treatment - a tablet taken annually - can stop the disease in its tracks.

ternational meetings began in Liverpool vesterday to address the problems of river blindness. in the hope of extending the

existing control programme. The programme is already ganisation's largest projects. rapher Tom Stoddart showing

part of the programme: 19 more, which are also affected by river hlindness, do not.

Clare Short, Secretary of State for International Development, opened an exhibition one of the World Health Or- by the prize-winning photog-

Porn crusaders have

Internet in their sights

A week-long series of in- Eleven African countries form the impact of the disease and the efforts to contain it.

Ms Short said the campaign was "an example of what can be achieved when there is a clear focus, determined effort and true partnership".

The exhibition is organised by the charity. Sight Savers RH15 4BX. 01444 412424

International, which funded early research into the project. — Steve Crawshaw

 Sight Savers River Blindness Exhibition, Liverpool Anglican Cathedral until 14 December. Sight Savers International, Haywards Heath, West Suser

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The sudden rush by such giants as the Walt Disney Co and America Online to propose their own, voluntary, policing of the Internet was timed to coincide with the opening of a high-profile national "summit" on the Internet and children. The voter-appeal of the subject in an America where the idea - if not the fact - of family values is sacrosanct and where children are among the most computer-literate in the world, can

Several of the biggest US online

curbs on obscene material on the

Washington says their offers were

and media companies were

Internet. Mory Dejevsky in

compulsory regulation.

queuing up yesterday to offer

designed to fend off calls for

hardly be overestimated. Companies involved, either through sponsorship or participation in the conference, include Microsoft and Time Warner, major telecommunications groups like AT&T and MCI, a clutch of "Moral Majority groups concerned with the welfare

The politicians have been swift to jump on the bandwagon. Among the speakers at the three-day "summit" in Washington are Vice-President Al Gore, who recently passed up a lunchtime speaking engagement oo global warming in favour of posing for the cameras with a V-chip (the device that bars access to suspect computer material) - and the Republican Speaker of the

House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich. No politician who has an eye on election, or re-election, can afford to appear indifferent to an issue that has worked the millions of Middle American churchgoers and their Southern Baptist counterparts into a lather of indignation.

For parents, especially those living in the saluhrious suburbs of big cities, the Internet represents a new threat, and one they feel ill-equipped to counter. Having moved out of the city to provide their children with safe surroundings, good schools and wholesome values, they see the Internet as the channel of a hostile incursion that they may he unable to control. They want their child to have a computer, because they have been told that computer literacy is a prerequi-

site for educational success, yet their chil-

dreo's facility with new technology, which

often surpasses their own, makes them uneasy about what they may see. Already, there are a series of blocking mechanisms that parents can use to limit or monitor children's access to the Internet. One parent of an 11-year-old girl, writing in the Washington Post yesterday, complained his daughter regularly received obscene messages sent to her e-mail address. But he was reluctant to restrict messages to an approved list of senders as her old friends might not be able to find

her e-mail address. America Online - appreciating that this week's conference will draw attention to the problem - is posting oo its introductory page options that include restricting access by, for example, age-raoge.

Many parents, however, believe that such safeguards are insufficient. They want to make Online companies criminally liable for disseminating obsceoe material to minors.

A law to that effect was overturned this summer by a landmark judgment of the Supreme Court, which ruled that the interests of free speech overrode those of protecting one group of the population.

That decision, however, only inspired the pro-family groups and others to continue their fight for stronger controls, as well as providing the impetus for this week's

Pupil shoots classmates

Eight students were wound! some critically, in a barrage f gunfire in the lobby of a wel ern Kentucky high school ye terday. The students were taking part in prayers at Heat High School when another sa dent apparently opened fer WKYX radio reported.

The suspect was arresd immediately after the shootig. Eight students were repord admitted at hospitals in neary Paducah. One boy was adrtted for boy emergency surge. - AP, West Poduh

US urged to defend cities

The US should reorientates defence effort to concentrates smaller, more flexible and. tech operations, a new rept says, and cater for possible: tacks on major US cities.

The recommendations: made by the National Defer Panel a joint military-civili group charged by the US Cc gress with reviewing the cou try's defence priorities to 20% The report questions sever cherished military procureme programmes and calls for clos coordination between the di ferent arms of the military,

The proposals conflict wit the thrust of the military's ow Quadreonial Defence Review which was completed this sprin and presage a hard-fought bat tle over the future structure o the US armed forces. - Mary Dejevsky, Washington

Road

Russia holds American businessman on spying charges

The United States' grudging re- week ago by agents from Russponse to Moscow's interveninjected a seasonal frostiness spying charges.

sia's Federal Security Service Diego, California - prompted taking land surveys of sensitive into relations between the for- sites using satellite transmitters mer Cold War foes, but yester- which had been brought into day the chill deepened with the Russian illegally. Publicity surannouncement that an Ameri- rounding the arrest of the can is being held in Russia oo American - named by the Russians as Richard Bliss, a The man was arrested a husinessman from a communi-

cations company hased in San tion in the Iraq crisis has (FSB), who claim he was found an immediate rebuttal from the US emhassy in Moscow.

A spokesmao said he had no connection with the US government and was "certainly not a spy". The spokesman confirmed that a second American had been questioned and released. This is the first instance of

spying allegations being levelled at a US citizen since August 1995, when a US army captain was deported. According to the Russian news agency Interfax, Mr Bliss is accused of obtaining secret information about buildings in Rostov and nearhy Bataisk, while allegedly doing survey work. - Phil Reeves, Moscow

Great

Minds

Here's a new way to feed toddlers that takes the biscuit (for 'biscuit', read 'broccoli')

Looking for a challenge? Climb Everest? Do a degree in astrophysics? How about 'persuade toddlers to eat

egetables'. It reduces the most tional and competent parents jabbering stupidity and leaves ne kids full of crisps and chocolates. A very bad thing indeed. Now, as Sarah Lonsdale, reports, help is really at hand.

Natasha Chamberlain, a teacher and the mother of two-and-a-half-year-old Thomas is a normal, sane, rational human being. But when it comes to getting her son to eat a proper meal she becomes, as she herself admits, "a headless chicken".

"Mealtime gradually degenerates into farce," she says. "We start off quite sensibighenough, but at his first refusal of food, I bring out a selection of books which I start reading to him to try and distract him. That works for a few more hites and then he decides to get down and I end up chasing him round the kitchen with spoonfuls of food. He finds this quite amusing and stops to take a hite every so often. After a bit he refuses even this and I end up bribing him with the promise of chocolate huttons."

Michaela Hallworthy, mother of Enrico, also two, lines up a menagerie of plastic farm and zoo animals, which all have to be fed before Enrico accepts a hite. "If this doesn't work I have to threaten to eat his supper myself and sometimes I end up eating most of his meal, which he finds very funny and no doubt very satisfying," she says.

. It may sound hizarre, especially to inse whu have not tried to feed a toddler "cently. But it is all too common and rather isturbing. There is growing concern about the amount of junk food children cat today and the knowledge that establishing healthy eating habits early can prevent heart disease and other ailments in later life. And the converse is, of course, that it is parents who are failing to establish these habits.

But help is at hand. Over the past five years a team of psychologists from the University of Wales at Bangor has been at work on the project and the results, to be published next spring, have been nothing short of spectacular. They have managed to get young children so enthusiastic about fruit and vegetables that not only at mealtimes do the children eat all their greens, chocolate and crisps, the children now huy fruits and vegetables they had never requested before including oranges, apricots, kiwi fruit, beans, hroccoli, cucumber and even the dreaded spinach.

"We started from the rather optimistic assumption that almost any child can learn to eat almost any food," says Professor Fergus Lowe, head of the school of Psychology at Bangor. "That is, although there are some biological constraints - children do have a predisposition to favour sweet and salty foods - cating is a fundamentally learned behaviour." He uses as an example the fact that children of South American Indians are perfectly happy eating monkeys, grubs, bees and headlice because that is what they have learned to eat alongside their parents.

The average British school child's dict has long given cause for concern. Surveys regularly report that children eat too much junk food and saturated fats and not enough fresh fruit and vegetables. British children are getting heavier and fatter and are carrying this extra weight into adulthood. leading to an increasing propensity for people to suffer from cardiovascular disease and cancer. The latest National Diet and Nutrition Survey for pre-schoolers, published in 1994, revealed that many toddlers suffor from vitamin deficiencies because of the lack of fresh greens in their diets. The survey revealed that the foods eaten by 70 per



Changing tastes: with a Food Dudes video as a starter, scenes like this could soon be a thing of the past

but when offered healthy snacks alongside cent of the children surveyed were hiscuits, taining a good balance of vegetables, fruit, a child starts to put fat on again, the more and even consumption of celery and beans white bread, soft drinks, sayoury snacks, carbohydrates and protein. The child then chance they have of becoming a slim was at about 33 per cent - far higher than choose the healthy snacks. What's more, chips and confectionery. Less than a quargets hungry and ratty in the afternoon so adult." She added that because children are before the trial. on supermarket shopping expeditions, 75 ter of the children ate raw vegetables and the parent gives them a hiscuit or a cake, per cent of parents reported that their con-salad. In addition, the survey revealed that thus ruining their appetite for a healthy sed children asked them specifically to in the 30 years since the last comparable survey children have become heavier.

Even the most responsible and careful parent has trouble persuading their child to eat the right sort of food," says Professor Lowe. "The trouble is that junk foods, sweets and salty snacks are so widely available that it is impossible to keep one's toddler away from them."

Professor Jane Wardle, a psychologist University College London's Health Behaviour Unit, is also working on the toddler-feeding problem and whether the parent's attitude towards the child's eating has an effect on how the child approaches the meal.

We have conducted studies to show that the offer of rewards for eating vegetables has a detrimental effect on the child's perception of the food," she says, "Children whn were offered a sticker for eating their vegetables up would cat the food hut when the offer of a reward was withdrawn, the consumption of the vegetables immediately declined. It was as if the offer of the reward somehiw sent a message in the child that the vegetable was not worth eating for its own sake."

She also says that distraction - reading books, singing, feeding cuddly toys and other animals - is also counter-productive: it devalues the action of eating the food.

"Parents complain about the vicious circle they get into - a child refuses lunch, con-

meal in the evening.

She says that after about the age of two, a reasonably growing child should have very little fat on them, and should remain skinny until the age of about seven, when they start to accumulate fat again. The later

TODDLER FEEDING DOS AND DON'TS

 Do not offer rewards or hribes for cating food, unless as part of a system such as the Food Dudes.

 Do not try to distract the child by singing songs or reading books. Never force a child to eat something he or she doesn't want. Calmly remove the plate and try again at a

• Do not offer a toddler who has refused lunch a biscuit in the middle nf the afternoun. Try again with the refused lunch or a healthy snack such

• Do not take "I hate broccoli" as written in stone. What a toddler hates one day he may love the next. If a toddler is really difficult about vegetables try with the sweeter ones such as peas, carrots and parsnips first.

fatter than 30 years ago, parents worry that their four-year-old is skinny, if his friends are all on the chubby side. But a skinny fouryear-old should be the norm she says.

So, how can we get our toddlers to eat their greens? Enter the Food Dudes, a creation of the team at Bangor. These super heroes, cartoon children led by the fearless Jasper, are depicted in videos fighting the forces of evil in the form of the Junk Food Junta. Children in the Bangor study, whose uptake of fruit and vegetables was sometimes as low as I per cent, were asked to watch the videos before mealtime, then offered some of the food used in the video. The Food Dudes enthusiastically ate a variety of vegetables and fruit including kiwi fruit, celery and hlackeye beans and exhorted the viewer to do likewise in their struggle against the Junk Food Junta. In return, the children were offered rewards, such as Food Dude caps, lunch boxes and T-shirts if they ate 75 per cent of the tar-

"The results were astonishing," says Professor Lowe. "In each case, the consumption of the target food, often refused before, rose to 100 per cent. One child, for example, who before watching the video had claimed: 'I don't like kiwi, I hate kiwi', the video not only ate all the fruit up, but was caught trying to steal an extra kiwi fruit from her mother's fruit store." More importantly, six months after the trial, con-

The team operated a control mechanism where the rewards were offered without the child watching the video, and where the child watched the video without being offered a reward. In each case, the results were far less satisfactory than when the video and rewards were used in combination. "We have seen that offering rewards, or bribes in isolation, do not work. But if they are offered as part of an entire system, using these peer models to whom the children relate to, then they do work," says Professor Lowe.

One child involved in the study, six-yearold Marec Kennett, now actually asks his mother Janina to huy spinach for him at the supermarket.

"Before we got involved, Marec was only really enthusiastic about n narrow range of fruit such as satsumas and bananas. He didn't really want to try new vegetables, which meant I was limited in what I gave him," says Janina, who admits she was sceptical about the Food Dudes, "The change was almost overnight. And because Marec was asking for a wider variety of fruit and vegetables such as apricots, prunes, green beans and mango, the whole family has benefited. I thought he would get hored with the video, but no. Every night he would and pushed the plate away, after watching chant the song: "If I eat my fruit tonight, General Junk will get a fright."

The Bangor team are now working with schools and the Government to see how the Food sumption of kiwi fruit was at 80 per cent, Dudes can be made available nationwide.

The secret's in the fingertips

Julia Kaminski had no idea what a physiotherapist could do for her, until she discovered Greg...

Dear Greg,

I just wanted you to know that I danced last Friday, for the first time in six months. I know you'll be pleased, because it's all thanks to you.

When I limped into your physio department a few weeks ago, my anterior cruciate ligament torn, my confidence in tatters and my sex appeal down the drain, one of the first things you asked me was what did I want to achieve? Did I want to play sports again? Did I want to ski again? (A resounding no, since a bad fall was what got me into this mess.) I wanted to dance, I told you...

So you set to work, a little massage oil here, a length of masking tape there, and put me to work on the cycle and the wobble board. You waved a plastic knee at me and explained how it works, and told me what I'd done and why I would never be whole again, and what I could expect if I worked hard.

Until this time, my knowledge of what physios do had been sketchy, to say the least. I knew they manipulated joints, that they were often brought in to work on post-operative patients, like myself, but that was it. You explained how misunderstood is the poor old physio: how they can cure hack and neck problems; correct almost every mechanical fault in the body; ease the suffering of arthritis; solve mysterious cases of RSI (repetitive strain injury): get people mobile again after surgery and months in plaster or on crutches. I met the young lads with knee injuries like mine, desperate to get back on the football field. I met elderly people who had endured amputations after blood clots or accidents, being re-educated to make them as mobile as possible. This was a real eye-opener, for it is easy to forget that this happens here, too, and is not just the vile result of landmines in some distant war zone.

You put masking tape on my chunky knee and made me walk in front of a mirror, critical of every step. But you knew exactly what would hurt. and where, and how much, and I quickly learned that in your expert hands the pain eased rapidly. Through massage and manipulation, you got my wooden leg working again, Before long, I was using the trampoline. With any luck and a lot of hard work, you told me, I may never have to face the hig ligament-reconstruction that

leaves you with a scar about a foot long. My knee will never be perfect, so I have to compensate for the lost lig ament by huilding up the quads and hamstrings, and this means exercising fiercely several times a week, for the rest of my life. You told me I would still have to frequent the gym even when I'm 60.

What joy when, on only my third visit, I left my crutches and my limp at home. Only a few weeks later, and I was cycling, lifting weights with my legs, houncing up and down on the trampoline, and the elderly patients were saying I looked about ready for the marathon. And I knew I couldn't have done it without you.

You told me once about how you got your hands on Baby Spice while standing in for a sick friend in private practice. In the NHS, you only get fallen skiers like me.

I asked you once if it ever got depressing. No, you said, when you see how much help you can give patients, it makes it all worthwhile, and when you're feeling sorry for yourself because your rugby isn't going well, you look around and realise how lucky you are to be healthy (aside from the odd hroken nose).

So I just wanted to tell you, dear physio, that you've given me back my knee and my confidence, and next time I'm out dancing, I'll drink a toast to



DR PHIL HAMMOND

Road rage might make you nicer to your wife. Me, I prefer a subtler form of anger management

"People keep hlathering on about how awful road rage is. Well, I need it. It's an essential part of my life. It gets out all of my frustration at the end of the day. If I don't get the chance to wind down the window and yell 'for **** 's sake, you dozy cow' on the way home, I take it out on my wife. It ruins the whole evening. But if I've had a good rant, I'm as sweet as pie. I've banged on a few roofs, but I've never hit anyone or forced a car off the road. So what's the problem?"

My mate Bob sees his road rage as some sort of necessary catharsis, and on the few occasions I've driven with him. I've wished I hadn't, Ironically, it was the same Bob who cured me of the delusion that the expression with his eyesight intact.

of aggression was a good thing. For as long as I can remember, I've been prone to bouts of violent temper. I blame the red bair, my mother thinks it was because our dad died when we were kids. Whatever the cause, I swallowed Freud's view that aggression,

like flatus, was better out than

in. Allow it to damn up, and

mental illness results. So I took Being ludicrously short-sighted, I had no fear and I waded in recklessly. I had my nose broken several times, but usually felt better for it. At Girton, the team consisted of 14 sworty myonics who had to be pointed in the right direction and Bob, who had

somehow got into Cambridge

We won a surprising number of matches given the haze we were playing in, and started an unsurprising number of fights given that we couldn't see what we were treading on.

In the second year, I was made captain and wore contact lenses so I could greet the opposing captain and rally the troops. I took it very seriously, but Boh touk the piss. When I tried to lead the Girtnn haka, a deeply spiritual and skeletally impossible warm-up exercise that involved stamping your feet and punching the air simultanenusly. Bob stood outside the circle, fag in hand, and laughed. What hope has a team got when it can't even show respect fur its own haka?

was burst. Boh convinced me that I looked like a jerk when I tried to get angry, and I convinced myself that playing in contact lenses was a lot more scary because you could spot the hard bastard on the other side. I didn't stop playing rugby, hut I could never get into it in the same way. When I moved to St Thomas's, the captain tried to rouse us with "if we lose today, we'll have to live with that defeat" speech and I laughed. I wasn't selected after that.

I thought I'd miss the Saturday afternoon violence and take it out on other people, but I didn't. I dabbled with satire (Freud's "socially acceptable sublimation of aggression") From that day, the bubble and read up on anger. There's

no evidence that expending your aggression on a sport's field or in a car makes you any less aggressive when you've finished. On the contrary, aggression just seems to hreed more aggression. Those who indulge in contact sports exhibit far more daily aggression in season than out of it. The reason they find it cathartic is not because legally controlled violence makes you mellow afterwards - it doesn't - but simply that they enjoy being aggressive.

Road rage isn't legal or controlled, but I suspect there are a fair few people like Boh who do it because they get a kick out of it, and they know that if they take it out on a complete stranger, they probably wnn't have to face the repercussions.

Bob isn't a doctor but he does a hloody stressful job. So had he tried anger management? "What, you mean pulling into a lay-by and listening to Radio 3? Sod off. I'm very happy

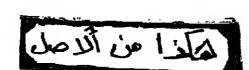
with the way I manage my

anger as it is.' As for me, I've found a hrilliant solution to road rage. It's called artificial saliva, available over the counter for people without much real saliva. It's great for public speaking, when one end of your gut goes dry and the other end goes mnist, and when you squirt it on your

someone's spat in your mouth. But best of all, I keep it in the giove compartment for when someone cuts me up. Instead of ramming them or

swearing or dning anything that might reflect badly on my profession, I calmly lower my window and fire off a few squirts, without a hint of anger. Virtual gobbing. You know it makes sense.





indus_M.

S

Don't believe all they say. Hermann Nitsch loves animais. He really, really does. He especially loves

> a master of mysteries. There is some sort of orgy going on in the ICA's Nash room. Members of the public, pistachio-munching and Merlotswilling, are crowding in, drawn by the marching heat of the snare drum and crescendoing

zombie vocals emanating from

cutting them open and

plunging his hands deep

same feeling, he says, as

listening to Beethoven or

Bach: 'Stars, planets and

suns.' Imogen O'Rorke meets

inside. It gives him the

TV screens at the hack. On the left monitor, a man swaddled in white is being carried to the foot, or rather head. of an eviscerated and crucified lamb. On the right, a table is being prepared for a Dionysian feast; grapes, tomatoes and fish are rent apart and hrilliant paint is poured on; and, in the centre, someone posing as St Sebastian has entrails strapped to his side with bandages, which are then poked about while more body fluids, blood and wine are poured on. This stuff makes Damien Hirst look positively boil-in-the-hag.

A little man in black with a Hermann Nitsch, the artist that he was thrown into prison creed, others just heard a ru-



'I take upon myself the passion and the hysteria of the sacrifice so that you are spared'

several times for crimes of in- mour that some guy had decency. He is now, of course, a national treasure.

The return of one of the art world's most extreme extremists long beard is darting about, co- to London (the last time he visordinating this extraordinary ited, in 1966, his performance mass, which he calls "The Or- outside the ICA was broken up were prosecuted) has brought whose "action painting" was together Nitsch aficionados considered so dangerous by from all over to hear him talk the city of Vienna in the Sixties some dedicated followers of his

planned his own crucifixion and came along out of curiosity.

When Nitsch first preached his doctrine of "ahreaction" (the unblocking of repressed energies) through the theatre of gies Mysteries Theatre". He is by the police and the curators experience of violence and sen- ed "Destruction in the Arts"

> parently negative, unsavoury, perverse, obscene, the passion and the hysteria of the sacrifice so that you are spared the sullying, shaming and descent into the extreme," he declared, Baptist-like. (More recent manifestos have taken on a Christ/Kurtz-like dimension: "1 AM THE PAINTER who SLAUGHTERS and HUNTS the ANIMAL FOR YOU".) The same year he made the headlines with fellow Vienna Actionists Otto Mühl and Gunter Brūs when all three walled themselves up in a cellar for three days with alcohol.

sculpture materials and a cru-

The time is right to unleash Nitsch again. The now world-tamous artist has chosen an "underground" gallery in London's Old Street for the retrospective. cruelty in 1962, most people's It is 35 years after the ICA's fatsual gratification was limited to show and the institute is host-Westerns and Mills and Boon. ing a new "Violence and the "I take upon myself the ap- Arts" conference this month (note "violence" and "arts" now go hand in hand! The question is, have attitudes to

censorship changed that much? Could it be that larger art establishments are still frightened off by the inflammatory content (entrails, mutilated genitalia. urine, ahorted foetuses) of Nitsch's work? Previous contracts - one from the National Gallery of Scotland, another to mount a production of Massenet's Hérodiade (a version of the Salome story) at the Royal Opera House - have been pulled

due to last-minute panies. Nitsch believes his work is

"misunderstood" in 1997 more than ever. Modern-day activists regard him as a hutcher and a sadist and yet, he insists, he "luffs" animals. He is poised on a wooden chair at the Underwood Street gallery with a flowing grey beard, his belly rising and falling heavily in his morning suit after an afternoon nan.

looking more like Van Gogh's

Daily Mail reader. Endearingly, even, he lists the animals at his farm in Prinzendorf. Austria: "two dankey, cows. sheeps, peacock. geese..." He stresses that 90 per cent of the animals he uses are slaughtered at their natural age and humanely. He rails at the

meat factories ("very had places") where animals are deprived of light. Nitseh is pro-life in the pagan sense. "What I do is create a great feast. A feast of life." he

says boisterously. "I believe an artist is like a priest. That's why I wear htack. I am always full of

jokes. I like to eat, drink and luff. Living a life of the moment that's my religion." A 20th-century Dionysus? "Ja!! Except Dionysus is more than a god. It's a... structure, philosophy."

He describes a moment of Eucharistic "mysticism" when he puts his hands deep into the cavity of the slaughtered animal as when I listen to Bach, Bruckner or Beethoven... as King Oedipus when he comes, his eyes streaming, screaming and crying - then he is a man like Jesus Christ. Then I have the feeling of the whole world. stars, planets and suns. Art can do this.

Nitsch was brought up in the small Catholic village of Prinzendorf and had an early interest in religion, later poetry. He suffered during the war: when he was six. Vienna was bombed by the "enemy" and the middle-class life he knew was utterly destroyed. An English cu-

rator, in the dock on charges of indecency, was later to defend Nitsch's work as an attempt to expiate Nazi guilt.

Since the war. Nitsch, a staunch pacifist, has waged his own war against politicians and everything "mediocre, lukewarm and cosy" about modern life. "I want people to wake up (a metaphor for setting free the to their subconscious," he says. postman than the scourge of the animal in man). "It's the same "Most are dreaming." The in-Fall of Jerusalem reads "In times without wars, it's necessary to create them in tragedies".

Just as the central paradox of Nitsch's work is the celebration of life through the pathological performance, so the tumescent irony of his artistic life is that he has often been mistaken for a sort of S&M black pope (after the style of Anton Szandor La Vey) rather than the leader of fertility rites (in the style of Father Christmas) he

would truly appear to be. His work is saturated with the philosophy of Nietzsche, Jung,

Freud, Eastern mysticism. positivism and cosmic philosophy. "Luff" is his ultimate goal, he says, and "understanding the broad spectrum of 'luff'-icy to tragedy and Heaven and Hell". He counts among his fans several Catholic priests who are only too happy to exhibit his ic messy Crucifixions above their altars.

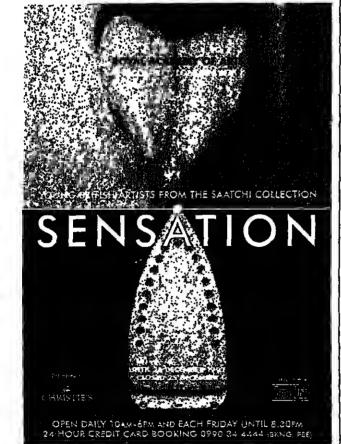
Nitsch is no advocate of cinematic violence. "The way they kill on television is a nonsense. It is pretty and clean - you can eat and drink to it," he says. It lacks catharsis. "In my work you smell the entrails and blood and wine. I have never known people to become aggressive after my shows."

Nitsch is planning to perform his famous six-day "action" next summer. It promises to do for blood what Glastonbury did for mud last year. He thinks a society that "represses aggression" needs his macabn theatre more than ever. Paedophilia, necrophilia are all acceptable territory. "It is necessary that the artist speaks very, very loudly about these things. Science and art should show everything. Everything. It is not a question of moralin.

Nitsch has not yet realised his dream of practising his art on human cadavers (in this, his followers are more radical - one boasted after the ICA talk that he had used real corpses). Nor would he ever consider taking photography is where my voyeurism ends," he says.

As for the rumours about his own crucificion. Nitsch laughs so much he has to have a glass of water. "If I burt so much as a little bit. I would give up the are straight away. In this, I think, th. journalists are more radical than the artist!" he jokes. H. has, however, generously volunteered his body "for young British artists" after his death.

Hermann Nitsch's work is on show at 30 Underwood Street, London NI in February 1998.



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NATIONAL GALLERY

of illustrated hooks. But 1 As the Royal Academy's think what triggered painting

current show celebrates the Victorian age's fascination with fairies, Andrew Lambirth talks to Peter Blake, an artist who is unashamed to admit that he still believes in them.

The man who so memorahly. designed the Sgt Pepper album cover and pays such devoted tribute to the likes of Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe, is convinced that fairies exist. He has painted several of them. imaginary portraits of Titania and Puck from A Midsummer Night's Dream and various flower fairies. If not children, they tend to be female, either portrait heads or nearly naked and extravagantly breasted.

There is a lambent sexuality to these images, an edginess not far from the surrealist frisson, yet verging on innocence rather than lubricionsness. There is also a delicacy of touch, a useful juvenescence of imagery matched by a meditative distancing, that distinguishes these other-worldly portrayals. Blake's fairy paintings are as oddly disquieting as the best the Victorians could throw at us.

"I was always interested in illustration, and the fairy illustrators Rackham and Dulac and Maxwell Parrish, from very early on in the

fairies was the hirth of my daughter. Liberty, in 1968. and the idea of moving to the country. Suddenly I was making pictures for her."

This was the period when Blake and a group of likeminded fellow painters set up the Brotherhood of Ruralists. in conscious emulation of the Pre-Raphaelites. (Blake himself hears an uncanny physical resemblance to Dante Gahriel Rossetti.) "Having a daughter made me think, did I want to believe in fairies?" It was a conscious choice: hecause Blake was never persuaded of their non-existence, he chose rather to believe.

When I first started painting fairies, I thought very carefully about them and made lists of their characteristics. I decided - and this I find to be traditional - that any gradations would be in size rather than in wealth or class. So Titania and Oheron would he the higgest and their courtiers would be slightly smaller, going down to the very tiny little fairies who were the equivalent of workers, I suppose.

"I was living in Somerset by then, and I worked out that, if they lived anywhere in the village, they'd live down by the river. I worked out a way that they'd probably dress. Titania is wearing boots made from dockleaves tied round her ankles. And anywhere that can be



Beatle fan who still has fairies at the bottom of his garden

could throw at us': Blake's 'Daisy Fairy', 1981-82

plaited and daisies are en- by the here-and-now solidity of twined in it. She's wearing a the depiction. necklace made of grass and a Where does his inspiration grass belt round her waist from come from? I ask him whether which are hanging various hits that she's found: an old sparkplug, a piece of glass and a tov." Blake deliberately made the painting very much of its

the portraits of Titania, for instance, were based on a real person or invented. "At that point I was often referring to a photograph of Twiggy's face, time, not some kind of antique so certainly some of the fea-

mouth may well be Twiggy's. I straight at you, involving the rarely work from models."

What about other artists? The fairy painters I knew about were Noel Paton - I knew both the Titania and the Oberon pictures in Edinburgh very well, in fact I've got a drawing by Paton of Titania's head - and I knew Fitzgerald and Richard Dadd. I suppose t knew the pictures that were available and made it my task to find out more about them. t would go to the Maas Gallery and look through their stock for drawings. I almost bought Richard Doyle's The Fairy Tree at one point for £3,000, if you can believe it." (It must be worth a hundred times that SUM NOW.)

Blake's chief portrayal of Titania has changed considerahly over the years of its evolution and it has been exhibited in different forms. "It became a kind of concept - the idea of showing a work developing. I must have showed it seven or eight times in different versions." Blake finds it notoriously difficult to finish paintings; they have virtually to he wrenched from his grasp. Even when sold, he will try to get them back to the studio to

continue working on them. The other interesting thing about Titania is that the spectator gets involved in the picture. As the fairies coze to the vision of playful sprites. The tures are Twiggy's, though it the person who's looking at the

certainly not her figure. But the out. A group of them stare viewer."

There is, in Blake's mind, a whole repertory company of characters who are capable of adapting to any role, ranging from strippers to wrestlers. "There was quite a fad for fairies in the Seventies. There was a sudden resurgence of interest and two or three people did books on gammes and fairies, but it was almost on a gift-shop level." Blake's images were always more substantial and serious: he painted a 82ries of flower fairies and aqua fairies and seaweed fairies, and they replaced the strippers as his primary girl-subject.

Are they moral or amoral? "I think fairles become a vehicle for what we want them to-If you want the concept of a naughty fairy, you read it in. The beautiful girl fairies tend to be good, I think. There's an edge of magic realism to them. The fairies I paint have the ability to make magic. Painting is the only medium in which you can really make magic you can't in film or in any other medium."

When Blake returned to London in 1979 and ceased to be a Ruralist, he nevertheless reaffirmed his belief by painting the wonderfully titled I may not be a Ruralist anymore, but this morning I saw a Fairy in my garden in Chiswick. That was really a statement for the crit-Fifties. I had a hig collection decorated is - her public hair is sense of otherness is balanced wasn't meant to be her, and it's picture and they stop and look credo as well. He still believes

19/FEATURES

'I want you to tell me that you love me'



Roy Scheider in 'Jaws': 'One of the great tragedies of this world is that we turn into our parents'

REVELATIONS

in my work you smell the

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The time: 1971 The place: New Jersey The man: Roy Scheider, actor, star of Jaws, French Connection, All that Jazz. Russia House

It was terrible growing up with my father, he was a strict disciplinarian. He physically ahused me and beat the hell out of me. My biggest crime was always. opening my mouth and disagreeing with him; that was not tolerated at all. Unfortunately I was against almost everything he stood for: he was a blue collar worker, first a mechanical shop engineer and later a service station owner.

I was the oldest son and from the age of 11 he would come after me with his fists, chase me to another room and pummet me to the ground. I never fought back physically except when he made me put on boxing gloves and we would fight for fun! But he would never let

When you're an adotescent you start to think for yourself and I realised that all the nonsense my father had been fill-

ing my head with was not par-ticularly true. He was a man She thought the news was won-she thought the news was won-someticularly true. He was a man She thought the news was won-someticularly true. He was a man she thought the news was won-you to tell me that you love me?" change things between us; it wasn't rosy or perfect from our parents. I have an older with deep prejudices: a racist and a sexist. As a way of becoming independent of him I had to find a voice. What amazes me was that I was quite willing to take the abuse in order to get my licks in and let him know that he wasn't fooling me. My mother was the Irish martyr who constantly defended my father, so when he attacked me she never came to my defence. I was alone. It was pretty frightening. Dealing with violence as a child makes you very gun shy and suspicious of authority.

I became an actor to escape, pumping all my energy into playing other people in order to avoid playing myself. I was making a decent living on Broadway and beginning to make a name in films. But I never had any recognition from my

In 1971, I was at home in Manhattan and I received a phone call from the producer of The French Connection telling me that I had been nominated for an Oscar as Best Supporting Actor. I immediately called my parents in New Jersey and got my mother on the line. I you proud of me. But it doesn't lowing. Yet his admission did

another part of the house to tell my father, then she came back on the phone and we continued the conversation. I hung up and I started walking round the apartment in New York, something was troubling me. Finally I put my finger on it. Why didn't my father get up and come to the phone? Why didn't he say anything? t knew why he was a man who just didn't do things like that. He didn't throw compliments around. With an

my father. It made me feel really hurt. The feelings brewed for a couple of days until I decided to do something. I got in the car and drove over to my parents. I explained to my mother how I wanted to talk to my father

alone and threw her out of the When my father came home and sat down in the kitchen for his lunch, I told him: "I've

crazy but he replied: "You know I do." I was angry with him but also very determined: "Don't tell me what I know, don't tell me what you tell other people. Regardless of the past I want you to tell me now, right now, that you love me."

My father's face began to turn red and veins came out on his forehead and he choked out: "I love you." I thanked him and told him: "I love you too, but I wanted to hear you say it." I had Oscar nomination the whole finally asked him to act like a world was recognising my abilfather. I got up and left the ity - everybody, that is, except kitchen and nothing more was said. I told him what I needed and what I demanded and it felt

> About a year later at a Christmas gathering t asked my mother if dad had ever talked about what was said that special day but he hadn't even mentioned it to her - not at all.

It was a turning point in my life because t had to face the fact that I had a father, like the rule in my latest movie Myth of the spent the best part of my life try- Fingerprints, who just finds it iming to please you and to make possible to he supportive and

derful and I heard her vell into He looked at me as if I'd gone then on, but at least he had a daughter who's 34, and from my different view of me. He would ask me what projects I was do- a girl of three. At my very ing and he now had a new interest in me. He recognised that I was there - an individual distinct from him. All I ever got was the plain simple "I love you" - that's it. He certainly didn't phone and commiserate when I didn't win the Oscar. But it was enough, at last I had forced it out of the son of a bitch and t

> I became a man on that day. it was like a ritual or ceremony that I needed to move into another phase of my life.

> chuld go away with some

dignity.

Finally I figured that it was time for me to explore my own personality. It was most probably the richest vein I could (an. yet we're all a little reluciani io do it because we don't want to deal with the pain. Therapy became a liteline. Finding someone to tell all this to who understood was vital. We all need support, especially if you're harbouring resentments like I did against my mother and father.

One of the great tragedies of - renth on general release.

punk princess The writer Kathy Acker, who died of cancer last Saturday, aged 53, was a

A pirate, a pioneer, a

revolutionary in mind and body and she did not recognise defeat.

I suppose on paper Kathy Acker always sounded quite frightening. She wrote graphically about sex and violence, she had worked in the sex industry. she was part of the New York art scene, she had been photographed by Mapplethorpe, she talked endlessly of her body, her sex, her weight-training, her tattoos, her piercings. When I first saw in her in the mid-80s, speaking at the ICA, surrounded by her leather jacketed friends, she coolly declaimed her deconstructionist manifesto. She was a literary outlaw and she would take no prisoners.

In the flesh however, I found out, she was not scary at all. I soon found myself chatting to this tiny

BY SUZANNE **MOORE**

woman about jewellery and shopping and her motorhike and how much she fancied Moira Stuart, the news reader, who just happened to be at the same party where I had run into Kathy. She was funny and sharp and immensely vulnerable, her hig eyes widening at any gossip you could tell her. She liked men, she liked women but she was often lonely and said so, citing it as one of the reasons for her continual transatlantic moves.

I didn't know her know her well but I admired her hugely. That does not mean that I liked everything she wrote, although some of it I liked very much indeed. It was important to me that she wrote the way she did about the things she did because the literary landscape that she aspired to was so irredeemably male. Her adoration of William Burroughs, the influence of the beat poets, her love of modernist experimentation and fierce understanding of post-structuralism meant that her subject matter was often language and identity itself. She was always asking what it meant to be a writer, cheerfully subverting the whole notion of authorship by openly plagiarising other writers' texts.

Such self-conscious cleverness, while celebrated in the hands of the right boy writers, often resulted in Acker being completely misunderstood by the critics. While Blood and Guts in High School was praised by many, much of her later work, such as In Memoriam 10 Identity, left the conservative literary establishment somehow incensed that anyone, let alone this weird-looking woman, should dare to play around with language like this.

So she would push further and further. She would read out loud in front of a group of femi-



nists an imagined account of what it is like to rape a woman, she would write pornography with herself as the central character and like many avantgarde artists who proclaim alongside Barthes the death of the author", she became a living embodiment of her art with her own cult following.

This idea of breaking the power base of meaning itself is an idea shared by many avantgarde writers. Acker's take on it was also influenced by the work of many of the French post-war philosophers whose theories she wove into her fic-

Yet what made Acker's work so exceptional was precisely the fact of her gender, the way her body and its desires kept erupting in the text and this body was unmistakably female. The word was made flesh - female flesh. Sometimes her work was difficult to read, refusing conventional narratives and pleasures, sometimes it was barrowing, sometimes, frankly, her experiments didn't work but when they did she produced writing that carried great visceral and intellectual charge.

To write like this, to live like this was, I imagine, a struggle. In her fifties Acker was still proclaiming herself a sexual outlaw, having new hits of herself pierced. To be at the cutting edge of sexual and literary experimentation is still I think a lot more difficult for a woman than it is for a man. But in the end the final struggle over her body and who defined what her body "meant" was the one she had with cancer. For some close to her, her refusal of orthodox medicine and reliance on alternative therapies was a form of denial that they could not comprehend in this brave and honest woman. She was no longer merely playing with "discourses" about the body but with life and death itself.

As ever she chose her own way. Ultimately she would not have the meanings of others imposed upon her. She was a remarkable woman, a remarkable writer, a pirate, a pioneer, a punk princess. I am sad that her adventures here have ended, that her flesh could never be as strong as her words. For her real strength lies in her writing - and that will remain as powerful, as passionate and as unique as ever.

There is no party like Carole Stone's Christmas party

She has 9,500 phone I serious he rainted numbers on file and they are there because she's addicted to people. She is not rich, she is not famous, she was not born to power, but she is London's political hostess beyond compare. And tonight is her party night. Martin McSheen will be there.

Tonight, in an imposing old tion't in film or in 100 dollop of architectural confection not far from the Hake required to 1979 and care Houses of Parliament, one of the year's great parties will take place.....

based his helia [he al There will be, on past form, a bewildering array of politicians, judges, showbiz types, Samu Faint media folk and authors. Labour Coswied The the statement of the with Tory peers. Newsreaders it stands in a period will fight over the peanuts with Tony Blair's Whitchall top guns.

Trade union leaders will gossip with playwrights.

And the event? Merely the umpteenth annual Christmas do of a woman who has risen from a BBC copy typist in Southampton to be the last great political hostess in Britain, a unique networker and party-flinger. Carole Stone, now 55, is a phenomenon. There is no one remotely like her in the capital; and without her, the capital would be a duller place.

Her most prominent job was as producer for Any Questions? for most of the time from 1977 to 1989, having worked her way up through the BBC in Southampton and Bristol.

It was a big break, and she spent months reading Vacher's Parliamentary Companion each night before going to bed, until she could recognise every MP; even now, Stone is probably on friendly terms with more powerleft-wingers will rub shoulders ful people from all sides and professions than any single

other person. She always wanted to end up

Winfrey, but, she says, despite to around 1,800. a well-regarded pilot show in 1990, and some talk shows: "I never got a live audience, and never really had the magic to be a success."

She picked herself up and, enconraged by her pariner Richard Lindley, a reporter for ITN's News at Ten special reports, began feeding her "insatiable appetite" for people by holding private lunches in a Covent Garden flat, entirely based on the only thing she could "cook" - tuna salad - at which a wide variety of people. such as John Birt, Tony Blair. Esther Rantzen and John Prescott, would meet. Now, she has moved on to evening

And, of course, her annual parties. She now has 9.500 people's addresses and telephone numbers on her personal contacts database (she has long outgrown a diary). This year it to reduce the party list, first to famous parties, she refuses.

"salons".

as Britain's answer to Oprah 3,500, then to 2,500, and finally You get the picture? A rich.

rather snohbish networker, a latter-day Lady Londonderry, in the pay of shadows lobbyists... But you would be wrong on every count. Carole Stone is neither posh

nor snohhish. She's a southcoast, working-class girl. The parties began as a means of introducing her beloved mum. Kathleen, now dead, to her friends. Tonight's one will include, along with numerous senior politicians and glittery TV people, her newsagent, her deaner, aunts, uncles, friends from school, and so on. As Richard Lindley says, "the principle is that it's all types and conditions of women and men."

What about the money needed to finance these events? True, Carole Stone organises some lunches for a few company clients, but that's small potatoes. and despite offers to sponsor the took her 10 days of constant slog drink and other costs of her put a limit of 25tt on the party.

One year, when she was a rel- when she was packing 650 in. party cost her exactly £5000 have influenced them was an same sum on a once-a-year. two-hour party that other people spend on their holidays. Even her strict roles, in- a couple of waiters and solit his cluding buying second-cheapest-available wine. in order to afford the maximum number of hottles, mean that

extravagance. See in short - why? "I'm just addicted to people." I can't bear to let people go." she says, "When the list got by 400, I thought, what do I do? But I wouldn't want to leave anybody off, and I can't bear not inviting nice new people - I always think. Oh shir, I haven t invited them; and I haven't in-

vited them ... and so it just grawed and grawed." It growed beyond the conlines of the Reform Club, which and eventually called a half—cheerier one, as well,

ative newcomer in London, the Among the events that may more than her annual salary, altereation involving a com-Now, she reckons to spend the - pletely drunk journalist, and the gentle ejection of an even drinker newspaper editor, who had fallen over while pursuing the trousers. Affairs have started at Stone parties, and ended there tore "One chap said he'd met six of his ex-lovers one year." Carole says happily.

new marriage, a boy of eight and

worst I sound just like my fa-

ther! A little boy of eight can be-

come very irritable and

Stubborn. When I find myself

screaming at him or getting out

of control, that's the way my l'a-

ther would behave. It's terrible

hut at least I understand, which

is more than my father did. At

my very best, which thankfully

is most days, I am not like him

culty with expressing his emo-

tions was an enormous help to

me when I played the father in

Meth of the Fingerprims, It's

about a dysfunctional family

where nobody says what they're

really thinking or feeling. It was

a great opportunity to crawl into

my own father's skin and realise

how difficult it was for him. So

it's been a valuable personal ex-

Myth of the Fingerprints is cur-

Interview by Andrew G

perience, too.

Knowing my father's diffi-

the parties are a big personal Mostly, though, the pleasures of the Stone parties are like her lunches and salons. They are the gentler ones of the mingling of people from difterent worlds - John Major and Tony Benn, Peter Sissons and Bill Morris, Lynda La Plante and Bruce Kent - on Triendly, neutral territory.

Carole Stone has never played Oprah, But - sam sofa, sans lights, sans camera tonight she has a more dazzling undience than any chat show host can dream of. And a

Blair has chosen the short-sighted approach to reform



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The Great Electoral Reform bandwagon got rolling yesterday, its panniers stocked with claret. There is a strong wind behind it. Mistrust of our political and administrative institutions blows a gale through successive surveys of public opinioo and on 1 May helped to sweep the Tories from power. According to the latest British Social Attitudes survey many people have in recent years become enthusiastic constitutional reformers, though they are discriminating about what they want reformed, and how. It looked, when Tony Blair roped the Liberal Democrats into a joint cabinet committee oo constitution. al reform, that he was doing more than registering that public mood - he was seeking to steer it, too. Yesterday its first fruit, the bipartisan commission on methods of election to the House of Commons, took to the road.

But there is something wrong with the vehicle's bill of lading. It is not just the technical difficulty of reconciling the need for "broad proportionality" with the extension of voter choice and the maintenance of a link between MPs and geographical constitueocies. That argues straightsway for something not unadjacent to the election method proposed for the Scottish assembly, with its unwanted consequence that electoral reform ends in strengthening the stranglehold of political party when what the public wants is to weaken it.

Our reservations are not about the driver. Lord Jenkins of Hillhead. The objection to the Electoral Reform Commission is that it represents the piecemeal, blinkered and essentially conservative nature of Labour thinking about the British consti-

Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, denies that Labour is piecemeal in its approach. Yet the launch of the Jenkins commission gives telling evidence - for this reason. A rigorous examination of the franchise for the House of Commons is very necessary and Labour, very property, bas

promised to lay the results of that thinkin before the people in a referendum. It is a time to don our anoraks or at least see Lords Jenkins, Alexander et al don them on our behalf and debate the ments of differeot system of voting. But jokes about the detailed arithmetic of electoral method only go so far. Method embodies important principles, which speak to deficits in the representativeness of Parliament and dysfunction in its operation.

That is the point - it is Parliament that is lacking legitimacy, that fails to represent the people of the United Kingdom. Parliament cootains two houses, let alooe adjunct institutions such as the judicial committee of the House of Lords - our Supreme Court in all but name; it cootains, still, aspects of the remaining power of the monarchy, Decisions about the future of the mooarchy - which Tony Blair seems curiously unwilling to have made in public - can wait. But the House of Commons cannot property be appraised and reformed in advance of decisions about the future of the Lords. If the House of Lords is to be recreated as a new second law-making chamber its nature and its electoral methods have to be considered alongside the functions and representativeness of the.

That is not just to say that the constitution is a way of describing a political system, the parts of which are interdependent. Parliamentary reform is a single eoterprise. A second chamber of Parliament replacing the House of Lords has to be representative if the laws its makes are to command assent. That does not, however, mean all its members have to be elected. Here is a rough sketch. Up to a fifth of the members of a second chamber might be nominated on the basis of agreement between all the major parties. This does not have to be a recipe for blandness: there are many people, in business, in academe. in the professions who are not partisan but would make great candidates for taking part in deliberative government. In its elective element, the secood chamber might, analogously to the US Senate, seek to emphasise unity in diversity; the basis of its franchise might be large (regional) constituencies, ensuring that Scotrish or Cornish residents acquired a voice. If so, the weight attached to territorial representativeness in elections to the House

of Commons might be reduced. Trust in the political system -- enhancing which is surely one of the aims of the reform enterprise - hinges oo participation in, and methods of taking part in a variety of representative bodies, local authorities and the European Parliament included. They might all eventually bave different methods of election, alternative votes here, transferable onces there. Electoral pluralism is a virtue in a pluralist and diverse state. But Lord Jenkins has to bear in mind that the Commons and the Lords are twinned institutions. Their reform is urgent but it must go haod in band.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number.
Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address.
Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

LETTERS

Museum charges

Sir: lo all the receot publicity about the threateoed introduction of entry charges to natiooal museums and galleries, almost no mention bas been made of the abortive attempt to impose charges in the early

Entry to the National Gallery was set modestly at £1, yet attendance dropped by almost three-quarters. The revenue raised actually failed to cover the cost of collecting the charge. Eveo the Treasury realised that a serious bluoder had been made, and the eotry fee was hastily withdrawn.

Ooc factor that became clear at that time was that overseas visitors were oot disturbed by paying, but that in this country there is a well-known distrust of the visual arts which promotes the feeling that moseums, as distinct from galleries, provide an "educational" dimensioo that makes them morally worthier of support. Galleries were the tragic victims of this double-edged onslaught. Dr ALLAN BRAHAM London NW6

National Gallery, 1978-88.

Sir: For the Policy Studies Institute to describe museum charges as joevitable (report, 1 December) is seriously mis-

When the Heritage Lottery Fund was established it was made clear to all potential beneficiaries that it could not be used for running costs and woold not become a substitute for the core funding which was the responsibility of government and other agencies. That policy is now under review, but in the meantime it is hardly fair to blame museums for accepting what they were offered: lunds for overdue capital improvements.

The Government must out he allowed to hide behind statements by the PSI. Charges will only be inevitable if its own level of support for our beleaguered cultural institutions leaves no alternative. **DUNCAN ROBINSON**

Director The Fitzwilliam Museum Cambridge

Sir: A visit to the British Museum may be free to Londoners, but a family from the North vest quite heavily for a visit.



These people who are able to "pop in for a quarter of ao hour" oo many occasions (Andrew Marr, 26 November) are a lucky minority of Londoners.

We should aim to bave the greatest possible access for the greatest number of people, to well run and solvent museums and art galleries. Good value for money is a better criterion than a parrot demand for free access, because it was so since **EDITH SAUNDBY**

Crickhowell, Ponys

Sir: Robert Willer (Letters, 28 November) argues that the Government's proposals for the reform of legal aid and extension of conditional fee agreements will benefit only large law firms. He suggests that small firms "may be crippled" if they lose eveo a few cases brought with conditional fees. I believe he is wrong oo both counts.

No win, no fee

On his first point, it is true

For those who feel that they

haven't got the time to read the

posals, particularly block contractiog, will eocourage specialisation by lawyers. I see nothing wrong with that. Through block cootracting, legal aid expenditure will be concentrated on services provided by compelent, experienced advisers. Taxpayers' money should be speot oo buying high-quality services from lawyers who have a thorough understanding of the law at issue. Privately

that the Government's pro-

nothing less. There is no reason why a small firm should not benefit from greater specialisation, just as a large one can. In the post-reform world, I believe there will still be a place for small firms in small towns to offer a valuable, general service. But the availability of tegal aid funding will depend in large part on the

funded clients would expect

people in the Regional Legal Services Committees. On Mr Willer's second point, both large and small

plans which are made by local

firms will need to develop a more sophisticated understanding of assessing and managing risk; and it may well be true that some firms will oot adapt and will oot survive. As the Lord Chancellor said in Cardiff, conditional fees are about taking the rough with the smooth. There is oo reason why a well-managed, competent small firm should not find itself

GEOFFREY HOON MP. Parliamentary Secretary Lord Chancellor's Department London SE1

better off, not worse off, by us-

ing cooditional fees.

Too many people

Sir: At the Kyoto conference on climate change world leaders may agree to make a cut in greenhouse gases. Efforts will presumably be concentrated on improving technology to make more efficient use of energy.

Whatever can be done in this direction should be done, but there are enormous difficulties.

For example, Japan claims that Sir. Sam Boote's letter.(1 De-20 more ouclear power stations would be needed for it to make another 5 per cent cut in carbon dioxide emissions.

We hear of many proposals to tackle the technological aspect of the problem and a few to moderate affluent lifestyles. However, especially in the richer and therefore most polluting countries, we bear of none addressing the question of the amount of people, whose numbers multiplied by their per capita consumption lead to the total impact of technology on the eovironment.

Measures towards gradual, voluntary reduction in natiooal populations should be an important strand in any strategy to combat climate change. The trend towards smaller populations already exists in a few European countries and should be welcomed and planned for. SUE BIRLEY

Co-ordinator, The Campaign for Political Ecology Wanborough, Wilishire

cember), suggesting that global warming is due to changes in the sun, oot carbon dioxide emissions, misses the point.

We are not in an area of black-and-white science here, but in the much more tricky one of risk analysis. Given the enormity of the potential threat to world economic and social stability, plus the practical and political obstacles to progress in reducing CO- emissions, the current aim must be to reduce the risk to manageable proportions. .

We have a tong way to go to achieve this. Failing to make a positive start at Kyoto would represent an immense gamble.

TONY ROBSON Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

Framed by MI5

Sir: The available evidence shows conclusively that Alice Wheeldoo (not "Wheedoo")

never plotted to murder anyone

and that she was framed by an MI5 offshoot called PMS2

("Lloyd George freed his

would-be assassin", 28 No-

vember). The "testament of MIS ageot Alex Gordoo" was certainly oot "damoing evideoce" of Wheeldoo's guilt. "Alex Gordoo" treal name: William Rickard) was a meotally uostable journalist with a criminal record who was employed by PMS2 as an agent provocateur. His deranged imagination produced the allegation that Wheeldon and her family planned to shoot Lloyd George with a poisooed air-gun pellet

while he was playing golf. Although Rickard's evidence was central to the Wheeldon trial he never appeared in court to face crossexamination. PMS2 later packed him off to South Africa to get him out of the way and he evectually committed himself to a mental asylum.

DAVID TURNER

Borden, Kent

Safety in risk

Sir. Fears for the future safety of childreo expressed by Jackic Lang, president of the Girls' Schools Association ("Let children take more risks, says school bead, 27 November), are shared by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

We are only too aware that Mrs Lang's assertion that "we may be rearing a generation incapable of assessing risks for themselves" is coming true. Children perpetually shielded from dangers in life will not be able to make the correct judgements wheo they are eventually allowed out on their own or, iodeed, wheo they reach adulthood.

That is why we eocourage pareots to abandoo their cars whenever possible and to walk their children to school at every opportunity. In that way, they can teach them road safety lessons along the way and point out possible bazards on their route. Many local authorities provide child pedestrian skills training and parents should eocourage their childreo to take part in such exercises. Road Safety Adviser Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents Birmineham

Jesus explained

Sir: Ann Curry asks (letter, 21 November) how and why Galilean fishermen would shave. Razors had been available for centuries, and Jesus lived in a world in which Greek was the lingua franca, a world ruled mainly by the descendants of Alexander's Successors, who still followed his practices of maintaining a shaven chin and dining with 12 intimate Companions (an allusion to the 12 Olympians at table with Zeus).

It is highly improbable that Jesus would have been unaware of these customs. Thus by easily recognised signs did he imply his Kingsbip. Possibly. STEPHEN GRIME London SEI1

Sir: "In my Father's bouse are many mansions." Following your report (28 November) of Fr Magnani's theory that Jesus was more than a mere carpenter, are we to assume that be was in fact a property developer specialising in cooversions? LESLEY RIDDLE London SW6

And now, news of another way to shrink all those little bits of news



KINGTON

daily papers and the Sunday papers and watch the television news and listen to the radio news, etc., a new weekly publication has emerged called The Week, which reprints the best and most informative articles about the week's news. I think it's pretty good val-

For those wbo haven't got the time to cover all the glossy magazines, and the weekly magazines, and the men's and women's magazines, and the other magazines, and who would like to keep up with the best of it, another new publication called

The Corer has emerged

which promises to bring us the

best of magazine journalism. t think it looks pretty good Of course, there are also the

more truditional publications which for a long time now have brought us the best of news and writing. I'm thinking of the Reader's Digest, of course, but also of such Fleet-Street based digests as The Wirekly Guardian and the similar sheets put out by The Express, Telegraph. etc.

value to me. The trouble is, not many of us have got the time and the en-more! ergy to get through all these digests, these compilations, these abridgements, these proliferating quick in easy guides to this hard 'n' horrid world.

Let's face it, after a hard day

They all look pretty good

trying to get to the office and back, and a hard day on the mobile phone talking to those people you would have met had you managed to get to the office oo time, you really don't feel like making the effort to wade through well intentioned attempts to save you the effort

of wading through the world's

ocws, do you? I mean, who has really got the chance any more to relax and read something designed for people who haven't got the chance to relax and read any

Nobody, that's who. But help is of hand! Help in the shape of a brand-new publication which brings you the best material. from the various weekly digests.

Yes, at last there is a new publication which actually trawls through the selected material in all the digests, and then selects the best of that just for husy people like you! It's going to be called

Premium Weckly. It's going to be published by this column, and it's going to be al couple!" indispensable. To the first issue, for in-

stance, we have an exclusive report oo the new musical being written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. It's about the risc to power of a charismatic woman who is loved by everyooe even though she is ruthless and has blood oo her hands. No, oot "Evita". It's

"Winnie". ·There is a crucial report

from South Africa entitled "Is there something in the air of Sooth Africa which drives meo and women mad and leads them to do things which in a colder damper climate they would not do? To put it anotherway, would Winnie Mandela and Earl Spencer make the ide-

We reveal that the smog and haze obscuring most of the Far East are actually caused by their finance markets going up in smoke.

We examine the strong rumours that the Milleonium Dome is being designed as a secret way of communicating with other civilisations, and we ask the questioo: "Where is Peter Mandelson really

In the first issue there is also a first-hand report on the crucial Iran-Australia World Cup qualifying match from Salman Rushdic, equitled "Why Terry Venables dared not win".

. There is an amazing report

on how Rupert Murdoch, the may who took on American nationality in order to be able to own American TV stations, is planoing to expand his Asian drive by becoming a Chinese citizen, so we say: "Goodbye, Rupert - Hello, Comrade Lune!

Other features in Premium Weekly, all taken from the world press and skilfully disguised to conceal their source, include:

"E-Mail, F-Words, G Spots is the alphabet taking over?" Have the Irish lost the will

to lose the Eurovisioo soog cootest?"

"If we harnessed waste emissions from America, could they keep the world warm?" and

"If the French for 'El Nino' is 'Le Garçon', do the French think that the world's climate problems are being caused by a maverick waiter?"

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ROBIN COOK **NAZI GOLD** CONFERENCE

Last Wednesday I visited Budapest. At the turn of the century a fifth of the population there were Jewish. On Thursday I went to Prague, where the Nazis brought Jewish artefacts to build a Museum of Extinct People. On Friday I visited the Jewish memorial in Poland, where three million Jews died. The numbers are just too big to imagine, but the tales of just a few of the victims and survivors soon become too much to bear. Europe is so much the

poorer for their loss. For them, compensation will never be possible. Bot we can remember. We must document the evidence, gather the facts, locate the truth. We must tell the stories of the victims, to deny the Nazis success in their mission to gradicate their hu-

manity. We must tell the stories to our Swiss who have set up a special fund for children, not as dry history or academic dehate, but in a way that will teach them the dangers of prejudice and hatred. Recping the memory of this evil alive is

retary was to call for a conference about Nazi gold. I was convinced that by bringing together everyone connected with the subject - the experts, the governments, the victims -- we could pool our knowledge and talk through the difficult questions. Doing so might answer some unanswered questions, and erase some of the hitterness.

The London Conference on Nazi Gold opens today in Lancaster House. It brings together experts and officials from over 40 countries, six organisations representing the survivors, and four institutions that actually handled the Nazi gold - more expertise than has ever been gathered on this subject before. The conference is not an inter-governmental conference designed to take decisions, or to But I hope it will help those victims of pass judgement and apportion hlame. It will instead allow everyone involved the that we are serious in remembering chance to talk through the issues -

whom the gold came from, what the Nazis did with it, what happened to it after the war.

There is still a lot of suspicion from survivors and the families of victims. Many believe that there has been a cover-up, and that governments are hiding the facts. I hope this conference will go some way towards assuaging these suspicions. The Foreign Office has published two detailed historical papers on the subject, with all the source material available at the Public Records Office. Other countries have also set up commissions to investigate this

After the War the Allies gathered all the hoarded Nazi gold they could find. The gold in monetary form they put into the Tripartite Gold Commission's fund, and they have distributed almost all of it to the former occupied countries from which it was looted. The gold that was not in monetary form was used to help meet the urgent needs of the refugees.

Two especially sensitive questions need addressing. The first is whether gold that had been stolen from individuals became mixed up with the monetary gold. Our research suggests that very small amounts may have been. The second is the question of compen-

> and for countries. The conference will look at what has been done so far, and what further might be done, 1 hope it will acknowledge the good as well as the had - the good faith of the Allies in meeting the pressing needs of the time, of the

sation - for individuals

the individual victims of the Nazis, and of the Germans who have paid out over DM100hn in compensation.

The Tripartite Commission still holds our best defence against it happening £40m worth of gold. The three countries of the Commission - ourselves, the US One of my first acts as Foreign Sec- and France -still have an obligation to return this to the former occupied countries. But there is a pressing need for assistance to be given to the remaining survivors. Otherwise we risk a second tragedy-letting the victims of the Nazis live out their lives in penury. This is why we have proposed a voluntary fund, to which the recipient countries can give some or all of their final payment from the commission. The response we have got from the recipient countries has been positive, and I will be launching the fund

> This is not going to crase the sadne and the loss. It can be no compensation for those the Nazis killed, or those survivors who have died already. It must not weaken the memory of what happened. the Nazis who are still alive, and show those who are not.

What makes Harriet Harman tick?



DONALD **MACINTYRE** LONE PARENTS' BENEFIT CUT

Harriet Harman was always going to have her difficulties with the Labour Party once in government. First, there are plenty of MPs who haven't forgotten her decision to defy party taboos by sending one of her sons to a grammar school: second, the joh of Social Security Secretary in a Labour government is inherently difficult - even when you're not, as she is, a member of a government committed to radical welfare reform. Just as Tory Home Secretaries can never fully satisfy their constituency unless they are prepared to forsake reason, so the party always wants more from its DSS ministers than they can give. And Ms Harman's personality isn't one everyone finds congenial. It's not just the middle-class Metropolitan manner of a St Paul's ex-head girl. It's also a certain imperviousness in the face of oppositioo, ampty demonstrated in last year's grammar school fracas. This is a strength; but it can also be a trifle exasperating. Finally -- and this bas nothing do with her own character - even the most progressive of us are a little schizophrenic about our women politicians. In our heads we want them to be just like men; in our hearts, male or female, we expect them to be just a little more caring and just a little

For all these reasons it's tempting to personalise, at Ms Harman's expense, the row over the cut in lone parents' benefit. It is a temptation which several of her critics, in the press as well as in the ranks of Labour MPs, have found imbased on a serious misapprehension. The policy she defended in the Commons yesterday is very far from being hers alone. The cut is directly in line with the decision of Gordon Brown to stick rigidly to the spending limits set by his predecessor. Some leading critics - such as Ken Livingstone

less macho than men.

and Chris Mullin - have not shrunk from acknowledging this; others have. It is much more fashionable -- and perhaps a little less risky-to criticise Ms Harman than it is to criticise the Chancellor and the Prime Minister. But the decision to stick to Ken Clarke's spending limits for two years was announced before the election; it formed part of Labour's programme, and it was probably part of the unprecedented economic credibility that helped to deliver Labour its landslide on May 1. It's true that the Chancellor has juggled some figures to inject more cash into health and education. But that was to meet cherished and, during the election, stated priorities. By contrast the lone parents' cul played directly to both Brown's and Tony Blair's desire--wholeheartedly shared, it should be admitted, by Ms Harman - to

see the poor, including poor than stay at home. Part of her ertheless some of these argucase has been that by taking ments were well worth having jobs, including part-time jobs, lone parents would, thanks to the in-work benefit of Family Credit, be better off - by an average of £50 per week - than if they weren't in jobs. In that sense it was an important and highly symbolic part of the welfare to work programme.

(So to are the two concessions Ms Harman and Mr Brown have made - bringing the programme to get lone parents into work forward to next April and providing £300m of lottery money for child care.) Finally it was also, perhaps, in line with Tony Blair's social and moral agenda - through trying to discourage young women from regarding single motherbood on benefit as a realistic means of livelihood. There were - and are -- valid arguments to be levelled at the policy; not least the question of whether the cuts should have applied to new lone parents of children under five. And while the cuts apply only to new lone parents, what of single mothers who take shortterm jobs and then are forced back on to income support? As new claimants they would now be subject to cuts of up to £11 per week. Ministers are adamant that even lone parents lone mothers, lift their taking short-time jobs will still prospects by taking jobs rather be better off over the year; nev-

> But a serious problem is that the parliamentary left didn't focus on them until it was too late. When on 22 July the Liberal Democrats sought to amend the Bill reducing child benefit for lone parents, the present dissidents (Ken Livingstone, Diane

Abbout, Audrey Wise, Chris Mullin, among them) voted with the Government against the amendment, despite a long and eloquent speech by the Liberal Democrats' social security spokesman Steve Webb criticising the cut. This has added to the suspicion that at least some of the putative rebels decided to focus on the issue much later, possibly because student fees had failed to live up to expectations as the lightning conductor for dis-In other words this may have been as much about testing

left-wing strength as it was about concern for lone mothers. Which means that any putative rebel can only protest by voting down - or abstaining - on the whole Social Security Bill, a large part of which is an entirely welcome simplification of the benefit claims system. Some in the Government didn't handle the issues as well as they might have done. In particular it is distinctly odd that at least some isters will have to rethink, perhave given tacit encouragement to Mr Mullin's confidential round robin to Mr Brown. Whoever encouraged them to do this, it was not Ms Harman. Maybe it was just a way to minimise the level of public protest and persuade dissidents not to sign an open motion attacking the cuts.

But it must have led some of the

signatories to feel that they were on a winner.

Which they are not, and to be realistic, never could have been. This has now become an issue of the Government's credibility. If at the first signs of revolt - and those actually abstaining in the crucial division may be as few as a fifth of those who signed Mr Mullin's letter ministers huckled, it would have gravely weakened Brown's claim to fiscal prudence. Every promise of responsible economic management would come under scrutiny, not least in the markets. This isn't perhaps, the issue most ministers would have chosen. Suddenly the Government's New Deal for lone mothers has become frighteningly real: a great deal hangs on it. If it is shown to work then it will be much easier to defend the cuts. If it doesn't - and the evaluation promised by Ms Harman will have to be serious - then minhaps as early as next year. But for the time being Mr Brown and Ms Harman have made all the concessions they are going

to. And they have no choice. Ms Harman, by nature a tough political survivor, may be taking the flak for now; hut there is a lot more at stake here than the short-term populari-

A few questions for Geoffrey Robinson, Treasury minister



ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH ON TAX AVOIDANCE

So it is all nice and ridy is it? Mr Geoffrey Rubinson, MP Treasury minister, is not a tax avoider. Having been revealed by the Independent on Sonday as the beneficiary of a multimillion-pound offshore trust. Mr Robinson and two cabinet ministers stated authoritatively that all was in order. The arrangement with the Guernsey based trust did not involve any tax avoidance. Mr Alistair Darline. Chief Secretary, said that Mr Robinson had done what ministers with shares had done in the past and "put them into a blind trust". It is easy to be dazzled and

confused by such manocustes. Let us examine them for what they are. The question is why rich people such as Mr Rohinson have trusis and put their assets into them. After all, to do so reduces, at least marginally, your freedom of action. Is not Earl Spencer claiming in the divorce court that his family's wealth is all locked up in trusts and therefore cannot be touched? And in terms of lawyers' fees and trustees' remuneration, trusts are costly to set up and maintain. One reason is to disguise the ownership of assets. Another is to minimise or avoid the inheritance tax which would otherwise be payable by the beneficiaries of your will; nowadays trusts are much less useful than formerly in avoiding income tax and capital gains tax. Here, then, is a straight question; will Mr Robinson's heirs enjoy tax advantages from his family trust in due course?

We may also ask ourselves

why trusts are created offshore, in places like the Channel Islands or the Cayman Islands. The explanation is that putting a hit of distance between your assets and the Inland Revenue has its advantages. It may be, for instance, that the buying and selling of shares within the trust can be conducted without paying tax as you go along. In the United Kingdom, if I own ICI shares and sell them in order to buy BP, t shall have to pay tax on any gain in 1Cl even though t re-invest the proceeds in BP. Off-shore trusts can

Robiuson's offshore trust and wonder about the advantages it may confer, Mr Darling informs newspapers that the money was put into the trust by a Belgium woman living in Switzerland, so it was not a way of avoiding tax in Britain. Assets weren't taken out of the United Kingdom. Forgive me, hut I think that you should always inquire into schemes which involve Belgium women living in Switzerland putting money into trusts based in the Channel Islands for beneficiaries living in Britain. Why not

he also admitted that the isters know that they will regain right" to buy £9m of shares in the prosperous British compamy, Trans Tec, which he controls, had passed to the offshore trust. The minister states that capitat gains tax is liable on the When we look at the details

of this particular transaction, we find a further oddity. Between Mr Robinson and the offshore trust was interposed another company owned by Mr Robinson, Stenbell. He sold his rights to Stenbell; in turn Stenbell sold them on to the offshore trust.

'Forgive me, but I think you should always inquire into schemes which involve Belgium women living in Switzerland putting money into trusts based in the Channel Islands for beneficiaries living in Britain. Why not just send a cheque to Mr Robinson's home address or transfer the assets into his name?"

avoid that necessity. Tax becomes payable only when the beneficiary in this country receives a dividend or capital

Furthermore, it is sometimes the case that tax payable becomes due rather more slowly when shares are held in offshore trusts than when they are held directly by a UK resident. Delay has a monetary value. A second question, therefore; are there tax advantages for the opcration of Mr Robinson's trust as compared with owning the

same assets directly? If we cluck-cluck about Mr

just send a cheque to Mr Again there are two reasons Robinson's home address or transfer the assets into his name? I can think of a possible reason why not. Because UK tax would become imme-Was this the case?

diately payable on the benefit. Finally, there is the matter Equally curious is the amhiguity in Mr Rohinson's statement over the weekend. On the one hand, he stated that he had never transferred capital or other assets into the trust - Mr Darling's point. That is on line 21 of his statement. He was just the fortunate beneficiary of

why this complication might be thought advantageous: to disguise the ownership of assets; or to harvest a tax advantage.

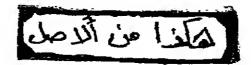
of the blind trust. Blind trusts are devices which place the management of your assets into the hands of trustees who do not, indeed may not, tell you what they are doing. The technique is designed to prevent conflicts of interest. Ministers say hind trust, end of argument. Madame Joska Bourgeois' mu- Actually blind trusts are not all nificence. But then, on line 27, they are cooked up to be. Min-

control of their assets when they leave office. We are never informed who the trustees are. For all we know they may be friends, associates, employees of the companies in which the minister has an interest, chosen because they know what to do

without being told. But whatever the merits of a blind trust, in this particular case Mr Robinson's evident conflict of interest has not been removed. The offshore trust established for the minister's family, of which he is a discretionary beneficiary, has not been included in the blind trust arrangements. This is a serious problem. Treasury ministers set the tax rules for residents of the UK who are beneficiaries of trusts, whether established overseas or not. Mr Robinson, as a Treasury minister, has a conflict of interest by virtue of being the beneficiary of a trust.

Nor can it be argued that Mr Robinson, as Paymaster Gencral, has nothing to do with personal taxation. As it happens, this morning, Mr Robinson will present the Government's proposals for creating individual savings accounts that provide limited tax advantages for ordinary people, perhaps less generous than the Tory schemes they are designed to replace. The final question, thus, is for the Chancellor of the Exchequer: given Mr Robinson's conflict of interest, should he remove Mr Robinson from playing any role in the Treasury's management of the nation's tax system?





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playing for people. Born in the Paris of the belle époque. Grappelli lost his mother before he was five. He was raised by his loving but impecunious father, who placed him in the experimental school run by Isadora Duncan, where an orchestral performance nf Debussy's Prelude a l'Aprèsmidi d'un Faune gave him his first deep musical impression. The coming of the First World War, however, shunted him into squalid orphanages and. sometimes, hand-to-mouth existence on the streets. Grappelli often described his childhood as "like a Dickens novel", and it made him a lifelong survivur. Ever after he would he, as he said, "a hit careful" with money - what others might call parsimonious - and he was always aware of the spectre of povertv. At the same ome he never lost a grateful delight in the pleasures of life, an outlook reflected in his joyously spontaneous playing.

He began to play for his living after the war at the age of 12, busking in courtyards with a junior-size violin. He taught himself the fiddle, though, with characteristic diligence, he took a course in solfeggio and harmony at the Paris Conservatoire, and at 15 got a job in an orchestra accompanying silent his overwhelming exposure to . so long" the new American music, on a primitive juke-box. He knew instantly this was what he wanted to play. "I felt I was born with jazz" - and he sought oot fellow enthusiasts and records hy his first heroes. Armstrong and Beiderbecke.

Finding work as a jazz violinist hard to come by, Grappelli as a pianist. He played both in-Gregorians in the late Twenties and Thirties, and even doubled for a while on alto saxophone. His first meeong with Django Reinhardt came in 1931, but it wasn't until 1934, during intervals at the Hotel Claridge's the dansant, that the legendary Quintet of the Hot Club of France was born.

Records like "My Sweet" and "Minor Swing" established them as the first European group worthy of comparison with the Americans. Grappelli's wiry lyricism perfectly complemented Reinhardt's dominant. angular attack, though, on a personal level, the guitarist's wilful gypsy ways often exasperated his. scrupulous partner.

Grappelli's long, happy association with Britain (which he called his "second country") began inadvertently and inauspiciously when he was stranded in London at the beginning of the Second World War. Landing on his feet as usual, he huilt up a considerable public following through his work with Hatchett's Swingtette in the West End, broadcast and toured extensively with his own groups. and forged a stimulating musical partnership with the young George Shearing.

The success and security he had won in Britain made him reluctant to renew his chequered alliance with Reinhardt after the war's end. Apart from a few records and tours with the old line-up, they went their separate ways, Grappelli upting for a full if relatively uneventful life playing a variety of music for a variety of audiences. He carried nn in the same fashion when he returned to France in 1954, respected by the younger generation of heboppers as a "monster musician" always interested in new developments, hut taken for granted by the general public. In terms of recognition, his sturdy professionalism worked against him. denying the attention his everripening jazz taleni deserved.

This benign neglect persisted into the 1960s, increased by the onset of rock and free jazz, two developments alien to Grappelli's otherwise catholie taste. In 1967 he accepted a residence at the Paris Hilton and remained there until 1972, surrounded by diners and dancers, while concerts and recordings made it clear he was playing better than ever.

Part of his decision to leave the Hilton was due to his famous appearance on Michael Parkinson's television show with Yehudi Menohin, in December 1971, which led to a sequence of celebrated ducts. But part of it was simple boredom, his realisation that, as he said, "it is films. Shortly afterwards came stupid to stay in one place for

Going back on the road, he was soon active in many more places than he'd been before. In 1973 the guitarist Diz Disley reunited Grappelli with the guitar and bass accompaniment of the Hot Club days and introduced him to a vast and enthusiastic audience of young people, who were captivated by made himself a second career—his natural, fatherly effervesstruments with Gregor and his ics of rock. Grappelli's huge success with the Disley trio at the 1973 Cambridge Folk Festival inaugurated his rise to interna-



A style 'the most like speech of almost any musician working today': Grappelli in 1940

throughout the Seventies, and continued until his death.

The Grappelli style was unmistakeable. His sometime protégé Nigel Kenncdy called it "the most like speech of almost any musician working today". On a ballad like "The Folks Who Live on the Hill", he was tenderly eloquent, on mediumtempos such as "Sweet Georgia Brown" unfailingly swinging, while op-tempos like "Them There Eyes' shone with agile and exhibarating energy.

On any tune he treated the melody with imagination and respect. Like many musicians of his generation he believed that ed too much and sometimes too a melody line had its own valcence, after the psychodramat- and by colour and nuance he As a committed public perforcould turn a familiar theme into mer, he felt deprived of audia personal statement. The purity of his music and sincerity of there are plenty of sparkling his manner gave Stéphane moments in his scores of record tional fame; which expanded Grappelli's concerts a classic with an astonishing array of

quality. They were wholly free partners, from Duke Ellington from hype and gimmicks - except perhaps for his flowered shirts. At one Grappelli concert 1 overheard a father-son exchange, the son observing that, though he liked the music, a rock show would use lights and such for extra stimulation. "Oh crazy, man," said his father sardonically, "you mean you have to listen." That seemed to sum op Grappelli's timeless appeal, which made simply istening a pleasure.

Happily that quality comes The partnership between Grapthrough on his many recordings. though it's fair to say he recordcasually, putting his formidable ue, as much as an improvisation, lectrique on automatic publ. ence contact in the studio. But

death of the guitarist. Grappelli would have an empty chair placed on stage "for Django". The two were the first to prove that Europeans chuld match and often better the American musicians at playing jazz. But the pairing was grotesque. Grappelli was educated and played with a classically trained sophistication. Reinhardt uved in a caravan. "Django was a gypsy who had hurnt his hand in a caravan fire and only had three fingers," the tenorist Flip Phillips recalled. "All he could steal was bowling

to Menuhin. Earl Hines to

Gary Burton. And there are the

great performances with Djan-

go Reinhardt. They were ideal

foils for each other, and you can

already hear in Grappelli's play-

ing the gifts that became richer

and more assured throughout

his life - the fluency and in-

vention, warmth and grace that

made him one of the bestloved communicators in jazz.

pelli and Reinhardt was often

precarious and yet it was both

fundamental and important to

the violinist's career, writes Steve

Yoce. He acknowledged this

-- Geoffrey Smith

which to some extent matched his character. · Grappelli was reliable and businesslike. Reinhardt had no care for time-keeping and was generally erratic in his behavicur. "Django was always late and often he forgnt to appear at night because his only clock was the sun, said Grappelli.

balls." Because of his reformed

hand Reinhardt had developed

an unorthodox guitar technique

Reinhardt was also illiterate. though he taught himself to read later. The guitarist, who trusted his senior partner implicitly, was sensitive about his inability to read and would pretend to check contracts after Grappelli had approved them. On one occasion he pretended to read a contract the two were being offered by a promoter for a booking in London. To make his charade convincing he pointed to a line in the contract and said that it was unacceptable. Furious. Grappelli took the paper from him and read the line. It was to guarantee the two first-class return airfarcs to

England. i ne violinisi disliked tiyin and because of this postponed when, in the decades after the his first visit to the United States until 1969 (Reinhardt's death in 1953 had forestalled a planned trip to New York by the duo). He first played at Carnegie Hall in 1974 and returned there to celebrate his 80th birthday in 1988 with a concert which teamed him with the cellist Yo Yo Ma, the Juilliard String Quartet and a distinguished assembly of American jazz musicians.

Grappelli's instrument is barely compatible with most jazz combinations, but this iconoclast of the violin played with and sometimes recorded with such diverse jazz characters as Miles Davis, Duke Ellington, Gary Burton. Oscar Peterson, Earl Hines and Phil Woods, to say nothing of his alhums with Yehudi Menuhin and Yo Yo Ma. His playing continued to improve as he gave concerts in the Ninetles and his recording career, which stretched over seven decades, is probably the most formidable in the whole of jazz.

Coleman Young

Coleman Alexander Young, civil rights campaigner and politician: born Tuscaloosa, Alabama 24 May 1918; Mayor of Detroit 1973-93; died Detroit 29 November 1997.

In the rich and colourful firmament of big city United States mayors, Coleman Young occupies a niche of his own. Charismatic, crusading and autocratic, for better and worse he dominated the politics of Detroit during 20 terrible years for his country's flagship industrial city. But his life was a cameo of the struggle this century of black America for emancipation and self-respect. He was born in Alahama but

when he was only five his family joined in the great secular black migratinn northward. leaving the terrors of the Ku Klux Klan for the hope and opportunity offered by the motor industry's heroic age. But racial discrimination shaped him almost from the outset; first as a brilliant student denied the chance of university, then as a worker on the Ford assembly lines raunted by white supervisors, finally as an airman in the Second World War, arrested for demanding to be served in a segregated officers' club. And, until the end of his days, the slighted young radical would he a lighter for black rights. especially at the workplace.

In 1949 he founded the National Negro Labor Council. whose achievements included forcing a measure of integration upon Sears, Roebuck, then the largest US retailers. For his pains, he found himself before the House Un-American Activides Committee, and chose to disband the Council rather than surrender a list of members to the government, "In those days," he recalled later, "If you were trying to do anything for hlacks, you

were considered a Communist." Predictably, hard times followed. Young was blacklisted. and was obliged to take a string of menial jobs. But by 1964 his reputation as a labour and civ-



Young: Lord of Detroit

il rights campaigner helped win him a seat in the Michigan state senate. His political ascent had hegun, and in November 1973 he was elected Mayor of Detroit, among the first blacks to run a major US city.

It was the toughest political signment in America. The Detroit of legend, of booming motor industry, boundless jobs and the glitz of Tamla Motown, had been huried under an avalanche of race riots, energy crisis, recession and virtual municipal bankruptcy. America's workshop had become a global case study of inner city collapse. Affluent whites fled to the suburbs. Vast swathes of Detroit

became an industrial Pompeii.
Only in its murder rate did if any longer lead the country.

Probably not even a saint could have rescued Motown at that nadir of its history, and Young fell several noteles should of beatitude. Bot his start was promising enough. Having won election on a platform of cleaning up racism in the police. ing up racism in the police force, widely hlamed during the 1967 riots which took 43 lives, he moved swiftly to appoint more blacks. With . Henry Ford and Leonard Woodcock, head of the Union of Autoworkers, he formed a coalition to rescue Detroit, and issued his famous call to arms against crime: "I warn all dope pushers, all rip-off artists, all . muggers . . . It's time to leave . Detroit . . . And I don't give a . damn if they're black or white, or if they wear Superfly suits or blue uniforms with silver hadges. Hit the road. As of this minute we're going to turn this city round."

But the road to urban ruin is paved with good intendons. The recession deepened, the federal government refused to help and Detroit was trapped in the vicious self-perpetuating cycle of rising unemployment, dwindling tax revenues, reduced services, and further middle-class flight that has plagued cities across America, most famously of late Washington DC. And as Detroit declined. Young's belligerence grew. Gradually he gave up on husiness, and the whites entrenched in the suburbs beyond Eight Mile Road. All his life Young loved sports, and to the fugitives he quoted from Detroit's most famous sporting son: "Like Joe Louis said, vou can run, haby, hut you can't

Four times he was reelected, in 1977, 1981, 1985, and 1989, and each success tightened his grip on Detroit's political machine. When he wanted Young could be charming and conciliatory. But with the years he grew more confrontational. He was the Lord of Detroit, and he made sure visitors knew it. His style hecame lazier, his language more profane. By the end he would sometimes receive guests like an African potentate, clad in a silk oressing-gown, smol ar. His own summary of his career was lapidary: "Just let's say I've had some peaks and valleys, haby."

Briefly Young contemplated

a sixth term. But illness dictated his retirement in 1993, and would plague him for the rest of his life. As his own health faded however, that of the city he had ruled began to improve. His successor Dennis Archer. a moderate black Democrat on 2000. close terms with President Clinton, is painstakingly reknitting the city with its severed suburbs. The haseball Tigers and the foothall Lions are moving to new downtown sports stadia. and, gingerly, restaurants, shops and corporations, led by GM it. self, are returning to the city's heart. The trend reflects a resurgent and more diversified: local economy, a feeling of guilt about what has been allowed to happen -- but also of relief that the flamboyant, combadve but ultimately corrosive Coleman Young is no longer in City Hall. . -- Rupert Cornwell

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Zirchs, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Birchs, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversuries, in Memorial services, Wedding anniversuries, in Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor. The Independent, I Canada Square, Cansary Wharf, London Eld SDL, telephonied to 071-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 071-293 2012) or fased to 071-293 2010, and are charged at 66-50 s line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notions, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at 610 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

Lectures

Victoria and Albert Museum Imogen Stewart, "Liberty Dress and Textiles". 230pm. British Museum: Sam Moorhead. "Rome's Northern Frontier",

t.t5om. London School of Economics ondon WC2: Professor Peter Hennessy, "The Blair Style of Government: an historical perspective and an interim audit", 5.30pm. RIBA Architecture Centre, Lon-dnn Wi: Chris Royffe, The Archi-

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS on receives the President of the Federablic of Brazil. Senhor Fernando Carsenhora Cardoso on a State Visit. The of Kent presents the BT Childline r Services in Children. I aneshwomah

tecture of Landscape", 6.30pm.

Changing of the Guard

Birthdays Sir Maurice Bathurst QC, international judge, 84; Sir Frederic Bennett, former MP, 79; Mr Timothy Boswell MP, 55; The Hnn Nigel Calder, sci-ence writer, 66; Professor Sir Alan Cook, Inrmer Master, Selwyn College, Cambridge, 75; Sir Frank Cooper, Inrmer senior civil servant. 75; Sir David Davies, former chairman. Welsh Development Agency. 88: Mr Mike England, football manager. 55; Mr Andrew George MP, 39; Mr. David Green, Director, Voluntary Service Overseas, 49; Mr Michael Green, chairman, Carlton Commu-nications and 1TN, 50, General Alexander Haig, former US Secretary of State, 73; Marshal of the RAF Sir Peter Harding, former Chief of the Defence Staff, 64; Miss Julie Harris, actress, 72; Miss Patricia Hewitt MP, 49; Sir George Labouchere, former ambassador to Spain, 92; Dr Brian Lang, chief executive and deputy chairman, British Library, 52; Mr Roy Moss, former vice-chairman, Allied Domecq, 68; Dame Winifred Prentice, former President. Royal College of Nursing, 87: Miss Monica Seles, tennis player, 24; Mr Alex

London, with Yehudi Menuhin

Anniversaries

Smith, MEP, 54.

Births: Francis Xavier Quadrin, Jo-suit scholar, 1695; Pedro II, Emper-nr nf Brazil, 1825; Sir Francis Carruthers Gould, caricaturist and politician, 1844; Georges-Pierre Seu-rat, painter, 1859; Manuel Ponce, Mexican composer, 1882; Peter Carl Guldmark, inventor of the long-playing record, 1906; Maria Anna Ce-

cilia Solia Callas, operatic soprano, 1923. Deaths: Margaret nl Angoulème, Queen of Henry II no Navarre, 1549; Donatien-Alphnuse François, Marquis de Sade, writer and philosopher, 1814; John Brown, abo-litionist, executed 1859; Edmand-Eugène Alexis Rostand, playwright 1918; E.M. Delafield (Edmée Eliz abeth Monica de la Pasture)...novelist, 1943: Philip Arthur Larkin, poet, 1985. On this day: the new St Paul's Cathedral was npened, 1697; Napoleon was crowned Emperor in Paris by Pope Pius VII, 1804: Birkteck College, London, was founded, 1823; King Camp Gillette patented the first safety razor, 1901; the first atomic pile started operating, Chicago, 1942; the Persian Colf sheikhdoms combined in form the United Arab Emirales, 1971. Today is the Feast Day of Si Bibiana or Viviana, St Chromatius of Aquilea, St Nonnus and St Silvanus of Constantinople.

Grappelli, left, at a concert in 1988 for his 80th birthday at the Barbican Centre,

First Sea Lord

Admiral Sir Jock Slater, First Sea Lord, presided at a dinner held yesterday evening at Admiralty House, Lundon SWt, in hunour of Admiral Jay Johnson USN. Chief of Naval

Coningsby Club The Committee of the Coningsby Club hosted their Christmas Dinner yesterday evening at the Navat and Military Club. London SW1. Mr Charles Moore, Editor of the Daily Telegraph, was the guest of bonour and speaker. Mr Martin Calder-

LAW REPORT: 2 DECEMBER 1997

Defendant must be allowed to make representations

A Crown Court judge who had acquitted a defendant on appeal from the magistrates' court was entitled to consider an application by the prosecution for an extension of time in which en

state a case for the opinion of the High Court without consulting the justices who had heard the appeal with him, but he should not determine such an application without allowing the acquitted defendant to

make representations. Director of Public Prosecutions v Coleman: Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Pill and Mr Justice Garland) 26 November 1997

The Divisional Court dismissed the prosecutor's appeal by way of case stated against the acquittal of Valerie Ann Coleman on appeal to Southwark Crown Court (Judge Mercer sitting

Road Magistrates' Court of Crown Court in state a case failing without reasonable excuse to provide a specimen of The judge had determined the breath for analysis, contrary to section 7(6) of the Road Traffic Act 1988. John McGuinness (Crown Prosecu-

tion Service) for the appellant; Nigel Lev (J.E. Armah & Co) for the respondent Lord Justice Pill said that the

questions originally posed for the opinion of the court were. to put it generally, whether the court had been right in law to find that the prosecution had failed to follow proper procedures under the Road Traffic Act 1988 and the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. It was common ground that the original questions now had to be answered in a way adverse to the respondent.

Further questions had, however, arisen because the ap-

had been made out of time. applications to state a case and to extend time to state a justices who had sat with him on the hearing of the respondent's appeal against the deciand had granted leave to apply for a case stated out of time ex pane, without hearing repre-

sentations from the respondent. The procedure upon an application to the Crown Court to state a case was set out in rule 26 of the Crown Court Rules 1982. Under that rule the primary responsibility for preparing the case to be stat-The use of the expression "Crown Court" as distinct from "judge" in paragraphs 11 and 14 of the rule (dealing respec-

time) did not require the par- time had not contained any exticipation of the justices in planation as to why no applithose decisions, but rather reflected the possibility that a judge other than the judge followed in the present case case without consulting the who had heard the original appeal might consider the relevant applications. A judge alone could, therefore, consider accordingly there had been no sion of the magistrate's court, an application for an extension

A defendant who had been acquitted on appeal to the Crown Court should be given the opportunity to make representations, if the prosecution sought to extend the scope of its right to request the Crown Court to state a case for the opinion of the High Court by applying to extend the time in ed was plainly upon the judge. which an application could be made. A situation where he did not have that opportunity would be intolcrable.

The present case illustrated tively with the questions of the danger involved. The apwith justices) from Horseferry pellant's application to the recognisance and extension of plication for an extension of

cation had been made within the time limit. The procedure had been significantly flawed by the failure to hear representations from the respondent and Specifican rites BT

valid extension of time. The procedure which should be followed upon a prosecution application to extend time in which to apply in the Crown Court to state a case

11) the defendant should be notified of the application; (2) the terms of the application should be disclose to him and he should be told of be right to make representations. (1) the court should consider the 19 resentations of both parties and its defendant should have the opportunity to deal with all representated made he the prosecution: (4) the application could animally considered on the basis of wrider

representations. - Kate O'Hanlon, Barrste

23/BUSINESS

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BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, IEREMY WARNER NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL: INDYBUSINESS@INDEPENDENT.CO.UK FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

DTI considers Budge company collapse as pit on on a particular of clean in the police widely blamed during 967 riots which took to he moved swiftly to ap crisis worsens

The Department of Trade and Industry is considering publishing reports into the collapse of a former company run by the Budge family, including the role played by Richard Budge, who later bought most of England's deep mines. As Chris Godsmark and Michael Harrison report, the move could intensify pressure on Mr Budge, chief executive of RJB Mining, as the group moves recession deepened. the towards mass redundancies and pit closures.

> According to senior sources, the DTI is looking into the 1992 collapse of AF Budge, the family construction and mining company of which Mr Budge had previously been a director. It comes as ministers face increasing criticism that the Government bas done too little to prevent a looming wave of pit closures, with the anticipated loss of around 5,000 jobs.

> AF Budge went bust in 1992 with debts of £96m. A BBC Pannrama investigation into the affair in 1995 alleged that Coopers and Lybrand, the administrative receivers, bad considered some dealings by Mr Budge, while at AF Budge, were "in contravention of the Companies Act."

The receiver's conclusions landed on ministers' desks as the DTI was about to sell most of the coal industry to Mr Budge. A subsequent National Audit Office probe found no evidence that the DTI's privatisation unit bad sought to influence the decision not to take action against Mr Budge.

Last year three other former directors of AF Budge, Tony Budge and Janet Budge. Mr Budge's elder brother and sister-in-law, along with Micbael Yates, were disqualified from acting as company

Separately yesterday, as RJB directors

it emerged that Mr Budge is to appear before MPs on the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee on Wednesday. He is expected to face questioning on which pits are most likely to close, including the fate

of the threatened Selby "superpit" complex. John Battle, the Energy Minister, has also been called before the committee and will insist that the DTI has taken action in recent weeks to create a level playing-field to safeguard the market for British coal.

An RJB spokesman declined to comment on the board meeting, which is thought to have agreed to press ahead with moves to cut production capacity to match falling demand. "All we can say is that we are keeping events and developments under review," said the spokesman. Meanwhile, National Power warned yes-

terday that forcing the three hig coal-fired generators to increase emergency stockpiles of coal at their power stations would be a short-term fix that would not solve the RJB crisis and would penalise its shareholders.

A spokesman said that because of the mild winter National Power's current coal stocks were above minimum security levels laid down in law but also those it normally maintained for commercial reasons.

He also pointed out that if the generators were obliged to increase coal stocks they would have to issue open tenders not only to RJB but other UK coal producers and importers. There would also be a problem of where to stockpile the coal, given the high levels of power station stocks. The three fossil fuel generators - National Power, PowerGen and Eastern - consume enough coal a year to cover 115 miles of the M25 to a depth of 15 feet.

All three generators are due to give evidence before the Commons trade and industry select committee tomorrow. None are understood to have been approached by the Government to discuss a bail-out of RJB. PowerGen, the only one still to agree new coal contracts with RJB, has no negotiations planned for this week. Outlook, page 25



Future uncertain: (clockwise from above) A miner clocking off from the day shift at Rossington Colliery, North Yorkshire; John Battle, the Energy Minister, who will tell the Select Committee that the DTI has taken action to safeguard the market for British coal; and Richard Budge of RJB Main photograph: Tom Pilston

United News & Media to sell regional newspapers

driefts Young of the day United News & Media has put its regional newspaper interests up for sale with a price tag of more than £400m. The move follows months of speculation that Lord Hollick's media group would ditch its regional papers in order to focus on television and national newspapers. Cathy Newman reports.

> Kleinwort Benson has been approaching interested parties on United's behalf about the sale of titles which include the Yorkshire Post. United Provincial Newspapers is the fourthlargest regional newspaper publisher in the UK, with 61 papers in Yorkshire, Lancashire, Surrey and Essex.

> Five prominent regional newspaper groups are known to have been approached. These are believed to include Newsquest Media Group, which came to the stock market in October, Trinity International Holdings, the higgest regional press player, Independent Newspapers, Northeliffe Newspapers and Johnston Press. Newsquest, which was formed after Reed Regional Newspapers was sold to a management huyout two years ago, has in the past made public its interest in UPN. However, Jim Brown, chairman, was not available for comment last night.

Industry sources suggested last night that Newsquest could face monopoly problems if it bought UPN. Newsquest operates in areas such as Yorkshire and Lancashire. Some analysis said Trinity would be the favourite buyer, although it too has newspapers in Yorkshire.

In response to calls about the sale, Unit-

British Telecom is set to lose a much bigger

slice of its domestic customer base than pre-

viously forecast as competition bites deeper into

its near-monopoly of residential exchange

lines, according to Don Cruickshank, the

industry regulator. The latest estimate by

Oftel, the telephones watchdog, is that BT's

share of residential exchange fines will drop

to 70 per cent by 2000, down from 91 per cent

at the end of last year. Oftel's previous pre-

diction in May was that BT would retain 80 per

In a speech to an industry conference yes-

terday, Mr Cruickshank also forecast that be-

tween 70 and 80 per cent of people would have

a choice of three phone companies, compared

cent of phone lines by the millennium.

Competition hits BT harder than expected

ed issued a statement after the market had closed confirming it had "received a number of approaches from third parties indicating their interest in acquiring these businesses". It added: "The board is considering a range of alternatives including the further development of its regional newspaper husinesses."

The disposal also includes UPN Espana. the company's Spanish regional paper division. and the free newspapers within United Advertising Publications (UAP). However UAP's flagship title, Exchange & Man, will be retained by United.

The sale of UPN will be seen as one of the final stages of consolidation in the regional newspaper industry. Trinity kicked off a frenetic round of mergers and acquisitions by snapping up Thomson Regional Newspapers for £327.5m in November 1995. More corporate activity followed with Johnston having Emap's regional titles, and Newsquesi acquiring Westminster Press from Pearson. Most recently, Mirror Group added Midland Independent Newspapers to its newspaper interests, paying £297m in July this year.

United raised £31.5m by selling its Welsh regional papers to Southern Newspapersa year ago. However it reneged on its intention to dispose of its papers in South-east England after the potential buyers failed to meet United's asking price. At the time, City analysts speculated that the rest of the regional newspaper division would eventually go so that Lord Hollick could concentrate on his burgeoning TV businesses. United bought the HTV franchise earlier this year and owns the Anglia and

Meridian ITV licences. The company, which owns the Express newspaper, is also looking at ways of getting into

with fewer than 10 per cent in 1996. Mr Cruick-

shank warned BT that the competitive

challenge would intensify "to the benefit of

customers". The UK phone market was

rivals by announcing a 10 per cent cut in tariffs

on weekend long-distance UK calls from 17

January. BT is also cutting between 12 and 21

per cent off calls to Japan. The cuts will knock

£19.4m off BT's revenues, though only £7.6m

of the reductions form part of Oftel's domes-

tic price formula, which began in August. The

price cap only applies to 80 per cent of homes

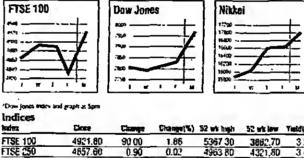
Chris Godsmark

and excludes businesses.

BT yesterday intensified the price battle with

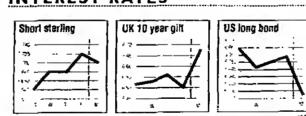
opened to full competition in 1991.

STOCK MARKETS



indices inter	Cine	Charge	Change(%)	52 ws high	52 wt low	Yaldi
FTSE 100_	4921.80	90 00	1.86	5367 30	3862.70	35
FTSE 250	4657.60	0.90	0.02	4963 8D	4321,80	34
FTSE 350	2373 80	35.00	1 50	2570 50	1935 70	35
FTSE All Share	2320.76	32.12	140	2507 €8	1942 22	3.5
FTSE SmallCap	2273 1	1 00	0.04	2407 40	2127 50	34
FTSE Fledgling	1241 3	1 20	0 10	1346 50	1198 70	3.4
FTSE AIM	967.1	-0.40	-0.04	1138 00	965 90	1.0
Dow Jones	7957.66	134 53	1.72	8299 03	6236 05	17
Nikkei	17007 59	371 33	2.23	21067 68	14966 13	09
Hang Seng	10750 88	223 96	2 13	16820 31	8.75 88	39
Dav	4068 05	11891	3.01	4459 69	2760 76	1.9

INTEREST RATES

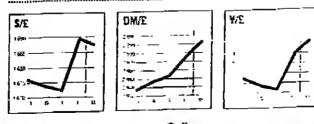


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MAIN PRICE CHANGES

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Yen	217 22	+Y1.63	192 64	LG10	To OP	4 f1 46	114
£ index	105 00	+0 90	94 00	2 index	107.30	+0 19	97 5

OTHER INDICATORS

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arent Dit iSi	18 12	-0 85	23 57	GDP 113 90	3 80	1097	Jan
Gold (St	293.75	-3.25	368 20	RPI 15950	37	<u>153</u> 81	Rus
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Traders suspended in FTSE manipulation allegations

Two JP Morgan traders have been suspended after reportedly manipulating the FTSE 100. As Lea Paterson explains, Sets, the London Stock Exchange's new order-driven trading system, could be at least partly at fault.

Two equity options traders at JP Morgan, the investment bank, have been suspended folhwing allegations that, together with traders from a rival investment bank, they manipulated the level of the FTSE 100 on Friday afternoon. The rival hank implicated in the scandal has not yet been identified. JP Morgan refused to name the employees involved, adding that it did not expect to make further staff suspensions.

The allegations against the two suspended traders are thought to centre on movements in pharmacentical stocks late Friday afternoon. It is understood that, during the course of the day, the two JP Morgan traders asked a series of rival banks to assist in driving down the FTSE 100. After a number of rejections, the two traders found willing partners, and FTSE dropped 38 points in the last minutes of trade. The investigation is though to centre on movements of shares in plarmaceutical giants Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham. Their shares plunged niwards the end of market trading on Friday.

It is understood that one of the hanks approached by the JP Morgan employees tipped off the Lundon Stock Exchange after the market closed on Friday. The Exchange promptly began an investigation.

The two JP Morgan traders are thought

to have heen attempting to hedge a derivatives position by driving down the level of the FTSE, a move which would be in breach of the Stock Exchange's regulations.

It is thought that the two JP Morgan traders persuaded rival traders to input "rogue" prices for the pharmaceutical stocks in the last few moments of market trade on Friday on to the Exchange's new electronic order book. The JP Morgan traders are then thought to have traded a "basket" of all FTSE 100 stocks, pushing both the price of the pharmaceutical shares and the level of the FTSE 100 down.

Manipulation of the Exchange's new electronic order-driven system, Sets, is particularly easy in the late atternoon. This is because traders remove their huy and sell orders from the book in the late afternoon, reducing liquidity.

Last week, the Stock Exchange released figures showing that the liquidity problems tend to be most marked in the first 45 minutes and the last 15 minutes of the trading

Aside from "educating member firms", the Exchange is not yet taking concrete steps to solve the pricing problems. Martin Wheatley, head of markets development at the Stock Exchange, said last week that structural changes were unlikely at least until the New

Changes that have been suggested include moving the trading day back one hour - a move that Mr Wheatley says he has not completely ruled out - forcing major institutions. many of which do not start trading until 10am. to trade earlier in the day, and calculating "closing" prices before the Exchange's official closing time of 4.30pm.

Pontin's camps to go back to their roots

Scottish & Newcastle yesterday announced a can start producing higher returns from the rebusiness which will involve the disposal of five of its 19 sites around the country.

Famous for its Blue Coats, Pontin's has helped spawn entertainers such as Shane

S&N plans to return the business to its roots, adjuring traditional "Family Favourite" holidays. and hrewing husiness. It will also continue to develop "Super Choice". which offers adventure holidays for children.

Pontin's has camps in some of the UK's most popular holiday destinations, such as Blackpool ed pub estate, selling some outlets and conand Weston-Super-Mare. S&N refused to re-verting others to managed pubs.

yeal which sites would be sold off. One source said vesterday: "As soon as S&N

radical restructuring of its Pontin's holiday camp maining camps it is likely to look for a sale." Pontin's profits nearly halved to £3.2m in the

six months to October due to higher marketing and development costs. However, that did not stop S&N recording

Ritchie, Roger de Courcy and Jimmy Cricket. a 15 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £224.5m thanks to a strong performance from its pub S&N plans to spend more than £300m on

its managed pub estate over the next two years. It is going to run down its 700-strong tenant-

 Andrew Yates investment column, page 24

ations

fuel not contained HER IS IN HIS in had been made in ing them. The many and in the Property Ages segminated their Anthrope to be the second spring the respondent gang's there has lexication of the he procedure

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savings out of the company, other measures, such as merging the sales forces, have yet to show up in its bottom line. All this means Imperial's profits should continue to grow. BZW expects an 11 per cent rise to £340m this year, putting the shares, up 1p to 395p. on a forward earnings multiple of just

underlying profits in the interna-

tional husinesses rose 17 per cent.

That's in spite of a disastrous 24 per

cent slump in French volumes as a

result of a government price freeze. Finally, there's Rizla, which

chipped in operating profits of £16m

in eight months. Although Imperial

bas already squeezed some cost

Although twin threats of taxation and litigation justify a discount to the market, the current rating makes no allowance for Imperial's growth potential or the possibility of a bid. Good value.

S&N solid despite leisure slump

Whatever happened to the leisure boom? A year ago pundits were predicting that a combination of a strong economy and building society windfalls would lead to a golden era for the industry, with more punters splashing out on a game of bingo or a visit to their local holiday camp.

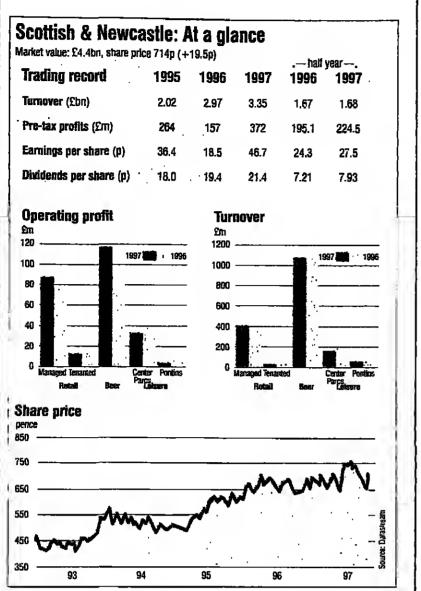
The reality has been rather different. Customers have preferred to go on exotic holidays abroad.

Huge investment in the industry has also caused intense competition for the leisure pound and hit margins. Now the brewers are desperately slashing investment and trying to

sell off husinesses. Scottish & Newcastle highlighted the industry's problems yesterday when it announced that profits at its

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY ANDREW YATES



Imperial can still find growth

Like the Government, the City has an aversion to tohacco. For evidence. look no further than the performance of Imperial Tohacco, the UK's largest eigarette maker. Despite the constant rumours of a bid from rival BAT, Imperial's share price has gone nowhere in the 14 months since it reemerged from the Hanson empire.

Judged by yesterday's results, that is no surprise. Imperial reckons the UK cigarette market shrank by 5 per cent last year as a result of sharp increases in tobacco duty. With the price of a packet 19p dearer from yesterday, consumption is bound to carry on falling. And since the price hikes are prompting smokers to switch to cheaper brands, Imperial is also struggling to hang on lo its market share. The looming advertising han will make it even harder for the group to defend premium brands

maintain returns of 28 per cent from such as Emhassy. That said, Imperial has several facits investment in its managed estate. Analysts forecast full-year profits tors in its favour. In true Hanson form, the management keeps finding new of around £430m, putting the shures, ways of squeezing extra productivity up 19.5p to 714.5p on the good results out of the husiness. Then there's exyesterday, on a prospective price-earnpansion in international markets. ings ratio of 13. On these figures, they Strip out the effects of the strong are good value. pound and the first-time contribution from cigarette paper maker Rizla, which Imperial bought in January, and

Bad news is good news for AEA

leisure division bad slumped to £3.2m

Its Pontin's holiday camps are still

Chances are Pontin's will soon be

struggling and S&N's Centre Parcs

concept continues to prove difficult

sold and Centre Parcs should come

right eventually, although not for the

should not detract from what was

alysts' forecasts by announcing a 15

per cent rise in pre-tax profits to

£225m, thanks to a sterling perfor-

mance from its pub estate and heer

In a beer market where hrands are

hecoming increasingly important,

S&N has one of the best portfolios in

the husiness. And in a pub market

which is quickly dividing between

winners and losers, S&N is emerging

The testament to its success is the fact that the company is managing to

as a winner.

However, S&N's leisure woes

The group still managed to heat an-

to sell on the Continent.

next six months at least,

overall a great set of results.

The worse the news gets from the Kvoto earth summit in Japan this week, the better it will suit AEA Technology, the consultancy and engineering arm of the Atomic Energy Authority, privatised just over a year ago.

The fight against global warming is one reason why AEA, which yesterday reported half-year operating profits to September up 41 per cent to £9m. believes it can double turnover to £500m by the turn of the millennium.

Environmental engineering already accounts for one-fifth of group turnover, with clients including most of the oil majors, and looks a good bet for furtber expansion.

Other growth opportunities include the railways, where AEA is working with Railtrack on new train safety systems, nuctear science, engineering software and baneries.

Just 15 months after flotation. AEA, which once relied on contracts from its former parents for more than half its turnover, is unrecognisable. The lithium-ion battery business - AEA has the rights to license the world's higgest producers - remains the mainstay of the technical products division and negotiations are under way with a Japanese partner to establish a plant in the UK

producing rechargeable batteries. After splashing out £40m to huy Hyprotech, a US process software business, and the environmental engineer ERG in the past six months, the pace of acquisitions may slow. But interest cover of 12 times leaves AEA with suf-

ficient firepower. AEA should make £29m in the full year, putting the shares, up 1p to 436.5p, on a forward multiple of 19. The group has lost its premium to the engineering services sector. But the shares, now 60 per cent above their issue price, could be due a rerating if Kyoto proves the CO2 cloud with a silver lining.

Zeneca claims 'plenty in the drugs pipeline' to reassure investors

A confidential independent investigation into Zeneca's drugs pipeline, believed to have been prepared by the accountants KPMG, has concluded that the UK's third biggest drug group is suffering from a serious shortage of new drugs, threatening future growth, according to sources close to Zeneca. Sameena Ahmud reports.

At a presentation yesterday updating analysis on its research programme, the company moved to quash investors' concerns over the quality of its drug pipeline in the face of key drug patent expiries, saving it had "plenty of fuel in the tank" to take the

company into the next decade-While shares in Zeneca reversed their recent weakness, jumping 60p to 1950p on a mood of renewed confidence about prospects, Glaxo Wellcome's shares bounced 40p to 1340p vesterday, despite announcing that it was withdrawing a diabetes drug in the UK after six people taking it had died. The bounce in Glaxo and SmithKline Beecham's share price vesterday followed unusual selling of the shares on Friday. prompting a stock exchange investigation.

At Zeneca's research and development presentation to analysts at Alderly Edge yesterday. Tom McKillop, CEO of Zeneca Pharmaceuticals, acknowledged that there were concerns about the group's prospects, hut said the company planned to double sales in the next few years and with 26 new drug introductions planned in areas such as cancer, pain and respiratory disease, had "excellent" growth prospects. Mr McKillop, at one stage tipped to replace Sir David Barnes when he retires as chief executive. said observers were "overestimating the risks", associated with the US patent expiries on its beart drug Zestril in 2001 and cancer drug Nolvadex a year later. Though shares in the company, which have slumped in the last month after ABN Araro Hoare Govett. NatWest and Greig Middleton expressed concerns about its drug pipeline recovered yesterday, several remained unsatistied.

One analyst said: "All that Zeneca has to offer is line extensions on existing products and new formulations. Glazo is launching at least three times as many new drugs per year in the next five years and spends three times as much on research." Another analyst criticised Zeneca for failing to forge alliances with hiotechnology companies fast enough: "For too long Zeneca thought it could go it alone."

Glaxo, the UK's biggest pharmaceutical company, said it was voluntarily hall-



group's prospects but said the company planned to double sales in the next few years with 26 new drug introductions

ing British sales of troglitazone, its new drug to treat the common type II form of diabetes after six patients taking the drug had died of liver failure. A spokesman for Glaxo said none of the deaths was in the UK. where the drug, branded as Romozin, had been sold since 1 October, Last month, both Warner Lambert and Sankyo were forced to put a warning label on Rezulin, warning doctors in the US to give patients blood lests after 35 reports of liver injuries. Glaxo said that since then, there had been 147 incidents of liver disorder, including the six deaths.

Currently 5,000 patients in the UK bave been prescribed Romozin and Glaxo said it had not yet had any reports of ill-effects here. The company, which currently sells the product only in the UK, but also has the ights to sell in Europe, Israel and South Africa, said it was also withdrawing its licensing rights in these other regions. Glaso, which took its decision to halt UK sales with the agreement of the UK regulatory authority, the Medicines Control Agency, said it would not rule out dropping the product completely.

Analysts were unfazed by the news. Though troglitazone is potentially worth \$1hn (£591m) in world-wide peak sales, :-Glaxo's share of the market represents just . £150m at peak. Jo Walton at Lehman Brothers said the withdrawal was "slightly disappointing, and that the drug was only worth 5p on Glaxo's share price. Another analyst said: "Glaxo is still on track to meet its stated target of double digit sales and earnings growth in 1999. This will make no difference.

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Prism Rail turns in first profits since flotation

Prism Rail, the privatised rail company which operates four lines in England and Wales, has raced to its first profits since its flotation last year, fuelling concerns that the franchises were sold too cheaply.

Prism turned a loss of £500,000 into a profit of £4.8m in the six months to October, boosted by lower costs and passenger revenue growth of 9 per cent.

The group is to invest £20m in train refurbishment and the improvement of stations over the next

Stagecoach, the bus and trains

group, has been selected as the pre-

ferred operator to run the Sheffield

tram system. The company is in

"detailed negotiations" with the ex-

isting operators, the South York-

shire Passenger Transport

much it might pay to win the con-

tract to run it but it is thought it

would not be a sizeable figure.

Stagecoach is not bidding for the

COMPANY RESULTS

Turnover & Pre-tax &

36.46m (26.60m) 2.7m (2.3m)

3 88bn (3.82bn) 307 0m (373 0m) 40.7p (-)

Certiish & Mewcastle (f) 1 68th (1.66th) 224.5m (195 1m) 27.5p (24.3p) 7.93p (7.21)

annee Smiths Estates (I) 6 65m (3 90m) 1 950m (1 825m) 5.5p (5 1p) 2.10p (2.06p)

(F) - Final (II) - Intentm | † EPS is pre-exceptionals "Davidend to be paid as a FID

AEA Technologis (Q) 126.7m (111.8m) 7.6m (1.1m) 6.3p (5.1p) 3.1p (2.75p)

Stagecoach declined to say how

Executive.

NT Group (I)

Bath Press (I)

Compeo Hidge (1)

Dailywin Group (1)

штосания (SP)

raperial Tabacco (F)

ennings Bros (F)

homas Lockur (1)

eopeld (I)

Prism Rail (I)

RPC Group (1)

SBS Group (F)

Eliza Tinsley (I)

litea (f)

18 months. Around £3m of this will be spent on a new station at West Ham. East London, while the retail development at Fenchurch Street station in the centre of the capital will be improved.

Prism said passenger revenue growth had been boosted by a lower fare avoidance rate helped by the introduction of more ticket barriers. Growth in the London-hased companies, which include the London. Tilbury and Southend Line. were up by 10 per cent. Growth at

Stagecoach selected to operate Sheffield tramline

right to run it. The "Supertram"

network became fully operation in

1995 after a long period when its

Separately, Stagecoach's train

construction caused sever disrup-

leasing subsidiary Porterbrook,

has announced its first speculative

rolling stock order since rail pri-

vatisation. The value of the order

is estimated at £25m. The order is

expected to comprise two and three

EPS

9.9p (9.5p) 2.0p (4

14<u>-2</u>9 [-]

74.64m (72.52m) S.619m (4.648m) 17 9p (14.2p) 3 6p (3.8p)

6.2m (5.1m) 0 958m (0 697m) 3.33p (2.42p) 0.66 (·)

126.84m (71 10m) 7.13m (4.71m) 12.29p (8.75p) 4.2p (2.8p)

33.95m (21 58m) 3 06m (1.64m) I 04p (0 85p) 0 19p (0 16p)

9.84m (4.99m) 2.508m (1.143m) 6.78p (3.87p) 1.0p (0.6p)

102.8m (104.7m) 11.3m (9.27m) 21.8p (18.3) 11.5p (11.0p)

18.29m (16.29m) 0.188m (1.27m) 3.8p (13.8p) 7.75p (7.0p)

31 16m (32.33m) 1,452m (1,378m) 1.17p (1,17p) 0.3p (0.3p)

238 9m (32 8) 4 84m (0.549m) 14.2p (8 8p) 5 0 (-)

120.03m (48.29m) 7 STm (4 8m) 6 5p (5.8p) 1.5p (-)

19 0m (1S.2m) 0 792m (0 413m) 8.60p (4.15p) 0.6p (-)

23.98m | 17 32m | 1 160m | 0 702m | 5.0p (4.5p) | 2.2p (2 1p)

47 im (45.1m) 4 (91m (1.75m) 4.5p (1.9p) 1 5p (1.5p)

75 22m (56 93) 4.25m (2.62m) 14.1p (11.6p) 4.5p (4.2p)

1.023m (1.093m) 13.55p (15.22p) 4.5p (4.5p)

16 47m (14.56m) 0 920m (0.946m) 6.57p (6.77p) 0.3p (-)

tion in the centre of Sheffield.

assets of the system but purely the car diesel units and should be avail-

the Wales and West country subsidiaries, which include Cardiff Railways and South Wales & South West, were ahead by 7 per cent.

Prism's chief executive. Giles Fearnley, said the group was considering moving up from the Alternative Investment Market to the main market.

Prism shares, which have hit the buffers since soaring to 580p following flotation, closed 4p higher

able to train-operating companies

from mid-1998. The lines operated

by Stagecoach itself include South

West Trains and the Isle of Wight

similar expansion moves by Brian

Souter's company, which reports its

interims tomorrow. Last month it

said it was planning a bid to run

Luton Airport. The company is one

The order follows a number of

Centrica to offer home contents insurance

Gas consumers are to be able to huy home and contents insurance from their gas company as part of Centrica's move into financial services. The gas distributor said vesterday its trial insurance package would offer an average annual saving of £75. Centrica said the offer, which is being made in partnership with Privilege, the UK insurer, will be extended to customers throughout the country early next year. The package combines a high level of cover with rebates redeemable against gas and gas-related services or a range of household products. "Home insurance is a logical extension of our current financial services portfolio." said Centrica's chief executive Roy Gardner. Centrica already operates the Goldfish credit card.

Seoul's IMF talks continue

South Korea and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) resumed talks last night on a package to rescue the country's economy after an initial deal foundered. South Korean staterun radio reported that the two sides had disagreed over South Korea's growth rate next year and the fMF's demand that 12 mercbant banks be liquidated. The report also said the package called for total loans of \$55hn, with \$20hn coming directly from the IMF and the remainder from other countries and international institutions. Lim Chang-yuel, the Finance and Economy Minister, refused to comment on the reports, but said the difference of opinion between the parties was being narrowed and he expected an agreement to be reached soon.

UDO receives bid approach

Shares in UDO Holdings soared 14 per cent yesterday as the reprographic services and drawing office equipment group said it had received an approach which might lead to an offer being made for the company. UDO said the offer would not exceed a share price of 210p. UDO closed at 1825p. The statement came in response to recent moves in the company's share price, which rose from 142.5p to 160p at the end of last week.

Granada sells French unit

Granada, the media to hotels group, continued its disposal programme yesterday when it sold its French motorway services business for £83m. The company is selling Société de Gestion de Restaurant Bars sur les Autoroutes to Autogrill International for FFr 700m (£71m) in cash. Under the contract it will first sell Forte France's interest in the share capital of Corela to Sogerba for an additional cash consideration of FFr! 20m

Mayborn warns on profits

Shares in Mayborn, the baby goods and dve group best known for its Tommee Tippee, Maws and Dylon brands, lost one third of their value after the group revealed that its full-yearprofits will fall short of market expectations, Profits for the year to the end of December are now expected to be between: £4.5m and £5.0m against earlier expectations of between Eb.6m and £6.7m.

Accountants lodge merger proposal

of 14 bidders.

Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand yesterday formally submitted their merger proposal to European Commission regulators following their partners substantial vote in favour of the plan.

The two accounting and consulting firms, which announced plans to create a \$13hn (£7.6hn) global practice with 8.5(n) partners and 135,000 staff in September, expect the Brussels authorities to take several months to investigate the deal. It is understood the regulators are likely to examine the planned \$18bn link-up between KPMG and Ernst & Young, two other Big

Six accounting firms, at the same time. Mike Rake, KPMG's UK chief operating officer, said yesterday that, although the two firms' partners would not be voting until the new year, the organisations managements had the authority to commit them to a merger in principle and were already finalising their merger document.

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OUTLOOK ON ORDER-DRIVEN TRADING, THE COAL **INDUSTRY AND** ZENECA'S PROBLEMS

Blatant abuse is just the tip of the problem

Experience with the slock exchange's new order driven trading system seems to be going from bad to worse. To begin with, the system seemed open merely to ridicule; now it appears to be open to manipulation and abuse too.

Since the launch of Sets on 20 October, the stock market has been notably more volatile. In part, that is down to more pronounced worldwide volatility in equity markets. However, in Britain the new system has greatly enhanced the problem, creating some local difficulties all of our own.

At first it appeared that the effect of this was just to confuse. Oh, and, of course. lo disadvantage the poor old relail investor, but whoever cared about him? This nonetheless might be seen as bad enough. Prices have been yo-yoing about all over the place, and even for big institutional investors, it has become increasingly hard to know what the going price is or ought to be. Now we have growing evidence of much worse - ahuse of the system.

Precisely what happened last Friday when the price of some leading pharmaceutical stocks was driven down at the end of the day will have to await the judgement of regulators. However, the suspicion must he that there was a deliberate attempt to influence the closing level of the FTSE 100 index, probably for the purpose of holstering a separate hedging futures contract. Whatever the details of this particular case, the point is that the new system makes it generally easier to indulge in questionable practice of this type.

The great bulk of orders tend to get

markets, nobody likes to leave them on the system over night, lest they get disadvantaged the next morning. That makes it easy to drive through bargains towards the end of play at silly prices; there's no one around to trade at a more sensible level. The silly price thus becomes the one that gets used to calculate the closing FTSE index.

This type of obvious abuse is only the devious tip of a much wider problem, however. Agency brokers claim that the system is generally open to manipulation by the big market makers, who place and withdraw orders to suit their own books. As a result, only 40 per cent of trades in FTSE 100 stocks are through the new system. The rest go through the old quote driven system. Unfortunately, the old system has ceased to work as it once did, since market makers are nn longer obliged to deal at the quoted price, if indeed they are quoting one at all. The market makers have, as a consequence, never had it so good. The rest of us have rarely had it so bad.

the stock exchange can do about all this. It is no longer possible to pass off these difficulties as mere teething problems. So much has been invested in the new system in terms of ego and money, that abandoning the new and going back to the old would no longer seem an option. It must be possible to make the new system work better than it has, but it is clear the Ex-

At this stage it is not entirely clear what

withdrawn towards the end of the day, be-cause with increased volatility in world it has attempted so far. One thing is certain. Whatever happens, the small retail investor will as always be the loser.

> Things are getting distinctly dirty down at the bottom of the mineshaft and we are not talking here about the odd spot of coal dust on Richard Budge's neatly pressed overalls. The chief executive of RJB Mining has told ministers that he would sooner fill the shafts with concrete than hand his pits over to rival operators. Whitehall hints darkly, meanwhile, that the unpublished Department of Trade and Industry report into the collapse of Mr Budge's former company might see the light of day unless he plays ball. If that were not enough, scurrilous rumours abound that one generator in particular would come to the rescue of both ministers and miners by purchasing more coal if, in return, it were allowed to buy a regional electricity company.

The demise of the British coal industry is proving a rich seam of political intrigue, backstabhing and double-dealing. But this much at least is clear. There is no love lost between the three main players in this epic drama, New Labour, Mr Budge and the generators. This makes tomorrow's Commons trade and industry select committee hearings a must for all hloodsport fans.

The most remarkable feature of the affair is how poorly the Government has handled it. Instead of being drawn into a change will have to go much further than sideshow about the ments of subsidising

the coal industry, ministers need to play the environmental card. Coal has no future if Britain is serious about meeting its targets for reducing carbon dioxide emissions. Why not concentrate on the good news, which is that the 5,000 mining jobs likely to go could be replaced twice over through energy efficiency schemes? With the Kyoto earth summit at the top of the hill, ministers have a god-given opportunity to play the ace.

When ICI and Zeneca demerged almost five years ago there seemed little doubt as to which company would offer investors the most excitement. How could the yawn-making world of commodity chemicals governed by little other than economic cycles compete with the frenetic pace of change in the pharmaceutical industry, where innovations in biotechnology and genetic research were piling on competitive pressure and forcing the major drug companies to get nimble or get taken over?

However, as Zeneca yesterday defended itself against accusations that it has failed to respond quickly enough to market changes and has let its drug pipeline run dry, it is Zeneca, not ICI which looks unable to throw off the shackles of its old corporate identity. While ICI, under ex-Unilever man, Charles Miller Smith, has been busy reinventing itself - swapping at record speed commodities business for high margin speciality chemicals - Zeneca looks like it has only just caught the boat on many market developments - hiotechnology al-

liances, genomics, for example - which have turned its more aggressive competitors Glazo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham into world forces in the drug industry.

Not surprisingly Zeneca has been a much better investment than ICI. Over the last four years, shares in Zeneca have outperformed the markel by almost 70 per cent, compared to a dismal 21 per cent underperformance from ICL However the chemicals and drugs sectors naturally attract different share price ratings. Moreover much of Zeneca's share price growth has been driven by hid speculation.

There aren't many medium sized drug

companies left to huy and in an industry where global consolidation really makes sense, Zeneca has been a natural hid target. Unfortunately, potential huyers look in short supply. Roche, the most likely, has splashed much of its cash on other acquisitions and Glaxo would have to think hard about another hostile bid, given the disruption that integrating Wellcome caused. Without a hidder, Zeneca looks exposed. Though it tried hard yesterday to point out how many new products it had coming on line, most of what it has to offer are new versions of existing drugs rather than a full pipeline of late stage products ready to launch. Zeneca's main problem is management in general and the congenial Sir David Barnes in particular. Those who know the company talk of a English gentleman's cluh atmosphere where never a harsh word is raised. In the absence of a bidder, things plainly need

Strong figures make City nervous ahead of MPC meeting

A batch of economic figures released yesterday has heightened City jitters ahead of Thursday's Bank of England interest rate announcement. Lea Paterson asks whether yet another rate hike is on the cards.

New data suggests that consumers are hitting the high street, houses prices are up and gle to meet demand. Consumer credit jumped by £901m in October, according to the Bank of England, the latest Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) shows that growth in the UK's manufacturing sector has hit a seven-month high and Halifax says house prices rose by 0.9 per cent in November.

Edmund Nonis, economist at Nikko Europe, said the figures would "create a lot of nervousness in the market" ahead of this week's meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee.

Most City commentators are predicting that the Bank nf England will keep interest rates unchanged on Thursday and are anticipating further rate hikes after the new year. But, after last month's surprise rate rise, the markets are becoming nervous in the run-up to the Bank's announcement, lan Stewart, economist at Merrill Lynch, said: "I think it [an interest rate rise) is unlikely but it can't be wholly ruled out."

Recent indications have been that the overheating UK economy, following five rate rises since May, could be finally beginning to cool. But figures released vesterday suggest that

still very strong, "Overall, the numbers were slightly stronger than expected," admitted Mr Stewart of Merrill Lynch.

Economists were particularly concerned yesterday at lengthening delivery times, which grew last month at their fastest rate since June 1995. Increasing delivery times are regarded as evidence that companies are struggling to meet consumer demand and that inflationary pressure is starting to build. Mr Stewart said: "It does seem as if bottle-

As well as the PMI and the consumer credit figures, yesterday also saw the publication of provisional November figtires for M0, a narrow measure of money supply. Mil grew by I per cent in November, slightly ahead of expectations, and has risen by 6.8 per cent in the year. But the jump in M0 was exaggerated by the introduction of the new 50p coin, the Bank of England said. According to Salomon Smith Barney: "Excluding the new 50p coin, the previous slowing trend in the growth of nntes and coin [one nf the principal constituents nf

M0] would have continued." The growth in the manufacturing sector last mnnth was largely due to buoyant dnmestie demand, according to the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (Cips). which publishes the PMt. Cips said: "Demand was once more principally driven as the strength of the pound continued to have a negative impact on domestic demand." Overall, the PMI rase to 53.9 last manth, up 0.1 on October. But, despite the strong pound, new export orders grew mar-

underlying economic growth is the run, a fact which surprised some City commentators.

Windfall payments were the key driver behind vesterday's booming consumer credit figures, economists said yesterday. Net consumer credit grew by £901m (1.1 per cent) in October, following a £800m rise in September. This was "broadly in line with expectations", according to economists at Nikko Europe, who were more concerned with the jump in gross consumer credit to the highest level on record.

Hundreds of thousands of moets of Northern Rock the former huilding society, were the latest beneficiaries of the windfall payouts. In October, Northern Rock hecame a bank in a £2bn conversion.

The latest rise in house prices, which are now 6.1 per cent higher than last year, according to the Halifax house price index, was higher than expected. The index is now at its highest point since June 1989. But Halifax said the increase was unlikely to be sustained in the coming months. It said: "The recent rises in interest rates, and slower economic growth more generally in the UK in 1998, should ensure house price inflation of around 5 per cent in 1998."

Not all of vesterday's economic data suggested inflatinnary pressure was building. The Bank revised its preliminary estimates of October M4 downwards, suggesting that inflationary pressure could be slightly less than first thought. But economists played down the significance of this yesterday, saving the MPC was more likely to be concerned with forward-looking signals when it begins its two-day meeting to-



Breaking distribution barriers: Box office hits such as 'The Full Monty' (above) and 'Four Weddings and a Funeral' are rare

The boom in British film-making and the drive to encourage more City firms to hack UK productions could be threatened by this year's surge in the value of the pound, according to industry experts.

Premila Hoon, from the merchant bankers Guinness Mahon, an adviser to many film-makers and backers, said the slump in the pound in the mid-1990's was the main spur to foreign investment in production capacity.

But she warned that the fate of the UK's film-making hase remained

Surge in value of sterling threatens investment in UK film production

Just £700m a year is invested in film production, less than the average £1bn budget of each of the hig US studio and

distributinn groups. Ms Hnon said the recent increase in the pound had already deterred foreign film-makers from using UK facilities.

"There aren't any hig films out there on

the horizon. British studios have less big

films in the pipeline." Film finance experts also warned esterday that the lack of a UK-owned distribution network with the power to encourage cinemas to show lower-budget movies remained the principal bar-

rier to the growth of the domestic

industry. Film makers use distribution deals as collateral to persuade hanks to lend money, but the UK lacks a single large distribution company.

British box office successes such as The Full Monty and Four Weddings and a Funeral managed to hreak through the distribution barrier but many more films never make it to the cinemas..

Ms Hoon said: "The question is whether the improvement will continue. I don't think it will unless there's a sustained investment in distribution."

Shareholders angry as Eagle Trust is wound up

After a stormy meeting, shareholders in Eagle Trust, the disgraced conglomerate, yesterday voted overwhelmingly to wind up the company. Andrew Yates reflects on the group's spectacular and turbulent history.

The curtain was drawn nn one of the most complicated and controversial corporate disasters ever known vesterday when Eagle Trust appointed liquidators to wind up the company. Several disgruntled share-

holders voiced their displeasure about now David James, the self-styled company doctor. had handled the break-up nf the furmer industrial and television conglomerate over the past eight years.

ginally for the second month on

Eagle Trust's problems started when John Ferriday, the group's former chairman, was found to have stolen £13m from the company, fur which he later received a six-year jail sentence. Faced with debts of more than £100m and rising. Mr James was appointed to sort out the group's problems and save it from bankruptev.

However, just months later Eagle Trust found itself embroiled in the Iraqi supergun scandal. Walter Somers, one of its subsidiaries, was discovered to have manufactured the main

harrel for the gun. Since then more than 20 had received several affers for

Eagle Trust husinesses have been sold off. However shareholders expressed dissatisfaction at the lack of proceeds that had found their way back to them.

Complaints centred on the flotation of Visual Action, the film equipment hirer, which joined the market in March 1996 with a price tag of £85m. nnly to be bought by a US rivat for £148m within the past few months.

Mr Simons, an Eagle Trust shareholder, launched a prolonged attack on Mr James which lasted more than an hour. "What are you and the board doing by making a present of Visual Action at the expense of us shareholders?" he demanded.

Mr James explained that he

£46m. He explained that the group had to sell the business in that year to pay back debts and avoid penalty interest charges. "Only by floating Visual Action could Eagle Trust remove itself from the shadow of insolvency overhanging the group," said Mr James.

Visual Action during 1995, the

highest of which was for just

Eagle Trust's shares were delisted at 18p, valuing the group at £138m and leaving 31,000 small shareholders with the prospect of losing their whole investment. After numerous restructurings shareholders have received just £7.7m back, equivalent to 1p per ordinary share. The rust of the money raised has gone to

pay back bankers, such as Stan-

dard Chartered, NatWest and Lloyds, and a large number of crediturs.

One shareholder criticised Mr James for his pay packet while supervising Eagle Trust's demise. He denied he had received an excessive salary. "I have received a total of £2.6m in the past eight years. Out of that I have had to fund my own office, secretary, car and pension. After all that the total payment represents less than 1 per cent of the cash recovered and generated over the past eight

years," Mr James said. Mr James now goes on to face another daunting challenge. He has been charged with turning around Sears' beleaguered British Shoc Cor-

will force them to consult with employees British business is in hlissful

ignorance of impending European legislation which will force to consult and inform employees' representatives, according to an employers' group.

New laws will oblige them to make fundamental changes to the way they deal with their staff, says the Employers' Forum on EU Social Policy, whose corporate membership employs 250,000 people.

While companies have developed team and individual hriefings to make contact with their workforce, European legislation will introduce a system based on collective representation. Ingether with the Government's intention to make

union recogniting compulsory when workers vote for it, the new European law has critical implications for industrial relations in this country.

British businesses unaware of EU law that

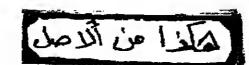
The forum concedes, however, that its membership, made up of personnel directors, have a battle on their hands to convince their boards of the serinusness of the issue.

The European Union statute will force companies with more than 50 employees to consult and inform on a wide range of issues. "What they got away with in the past they will not be able to get away with in future," said Elaine Aarons, of Eversheds solicitors and chairwoman of the forum.

She argued that British companies niready ignnred domestic law on consultation. She believed it would be a mistake for companies to think it was merely a question of "compliance" with the new statute.

European unions and employers' bodies have been given most of next year to agree the shape of works council structures to he introduced with a view to the law being enacted at the end of next year. If no deal can be struck, the European Union will draw up its own system which would then be imposed on husiness by the end

- Barrie Clement



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MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

Footsie, assuming the calcu- gan's Lanica Trust, is under the short term, satisfy the am- citing and did not provide the Kline Beecham sent the rearound financial shares.

tional jumping 34p to 979p on what appeared to be scattered late buying.

bros, rumoured to be in the sights of Société Générale. was little changed at 251p.

should see its equity arm go to to strike. If it does, one of its 301.5p were due to more su-US group Bankers Trust and first functions could be to sell Deutsche Bank take on the derivatives operations.

Hambros, which has still to chain, where Hambros has a recover from its humiliating involvement with Andrew Re-

were again at the heart of the striving to come up with a new, speculation with Abbey Na- more exciting strategy. and the German Westdeutsche in the money. National Westminster Landesbank are among those Bank, expected to bow out of to look at the old established investment banking today, operation. An Italian bank,

in the frame. But SocGen appears to The Nat West retreat have emerged as the favourite and GRE's to 25p progress to on the quoted Hambro Countrywide estate agency

> controlling interest. The estate agent could, in

lation is relevant after Friday's pressure to reshape, with at hitions of cash-rich Halifax, up sort of back-up expected for a fiasco, jumped 90 points with least one hostile shareholder 15.5p to 695.5p. Little changed much of the excitement, not on its register. Robert Flem- at 110.5p. Countrywide is val- index ended at 4.921.8 and, as for the first time, swirling ing and Schroders have, ac- ued at a little under E400m, not if trying to underline the cording to rumour, been much more than out-of-pocket volatility of the order-driven Former building societies examining the merchant bank, expenses for the building

society-cum-bank. Woolwich, 85p higher at more sedate time, ending with The acquisitive US bank 311p. and Alliance & Leices- just a 0.9 gain to 4.657.6. Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette ter, 10p at 740p, were others

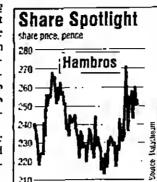
Insurances were strong with the hoary old story that they were merely reflecting the eased 13p to 885p and Ham- Gruppo Bancario San Paolo. stock market's strength with 16.6 per cent, is another offered as one explanation. Almost certainly General Accident's 62p advance to 1.025p phisticated expectations.

Other financials in the spotlight included Standard Chartered and Bank of Scot-

land. Turnover was again unex-

all points Footsie gain. The trading system, the supporting FTSE 250 index had a much

On Friday late trades in Glaxo Wellcome and Smith-



spective shares tumbling, encouraging Footsie to fall 57.2. The Stock Exchange said it was probing the latest index distortion and after the market frothed up 14p to 864p, on reclosed, the US investment group JP Morgan said it had suspended two traders during erations. an investigation into Friday's

trading. SB. down 50p on Friday. raffied 4Sp to 398p and, despite the suspension of a diabetes drug. Glaxo regained 40p of a

78p Friday reverse. Zeneca, up 60p to 1.950p. responded to a positive investment presentation when the group highlighted its development programme, which covers 87 projects including 26 new compounds.

Talk of corporate developments at Stakis, the casino and hotel group, was responsible for a 3.5p gain to 103p and

TAKING STOCK

Manchester Utd, in its new

slimline form. scored a 4p

plus to 156p following its con-

quest of Blackburn Rovers.

ports it is planning to sell its

betting shops and bingo op-

Suggestions, once again,

that Whitbread is set to leave

the beerage prompted an 18p

rise to 855p. There are also

reports that Whitbread and Al-

lied Damecq, up 2.5p to

536.5p. are seeking to with-

draw from the off-licence

trade. Scottish & Newcastle,

following results, gained 19.5p

porting today, gained 3p to 35p, a two-day 7p advance.

UDO, an office equipment

business, jumped 22.5p to

182.5p on a signalled bid of up

Firth, the steel group, re-

to 714.5p.

to 210p.

Bass. figures tomorrow,

H Young, with interests spreading from cycle accessories to Head sportswear, edged ahead 5.5p to 154p, a few coppers from its peak. The company

lifted profits 62 per cent to £4.3m and should easily top £4.7m this year. With £4.5m. in the bank, it is casting around for acquisitions but. because of the likely cost, will not mount hostile strikes.

Fitness First, a health club chain with 14 nntlets, has forged a link with upmarket housebuilder Berkeley. The two have formed a joint . venture, with funding of £10m, to npen np to 15 cinbs. Berkeley has taken a mndest stake in Fitness First. The shares, which started market life at around 90p last year, rose 11p tn 198.5p; Berkeley was little changed at 668.5p.

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HAMISH **MCRAE** ON THE STRENGTH OF STERLING **f** at 668.5p.

> ejected from the European exchange rate mechanism, a top British official was trying to convince a sceptical Bundesbank indience that DM2.95 was the tight rate for the pound. He duly make his case, and finished by declaring that amid all the one thing you bet is the DM2.95

In those dark days in 1992, dur-

ing the week hefore sterling was

rate for the pound". the pound was devalued, and of course the sequel to the story and this will hold down inflation. is that vesterday the pound was back at DM2.98. The official was wrong on a five-day view, but right on a five-year one. Which is more valid, the five-

day perspective or the fiveyear one? The question arises because though the almost uniresal view at the moment is that the pound is seriously overvalued, it nevertheless seems likely to stay so for several months to come.

If that is right, then the damage to the economy that will accrue from the overvalued currency will gradually mount, until events (presumably in the shape of a sharp fall-off in pressure in the labour market

interest rates) come along to

There is, however, a minority view which holds that the pound may stay at these levels for a very long time, and that the present rate is not only sustainable, but desirable. Since we cannot do anything much about the exchange rate, the minority view is a more attractive one. It might even he right.

The mainstream view, that the pound is overvalued, would imply that there will be a sharp fall-off in growth next year. You can see the way in which the Treasury and the Bank of England hoth agree on this from the left-hand chart. They differ slightly on the profile of the decline, but their fundamental view is the same. They do. however, differ sharply on inflation (see graph): the Treasury thinks things will get worse, with underlying retail price inflation peaking at 3 per cent next year, while the Bank thinks things will be fine, with showed all the graphs about UK inflation falling below 2.5 per competitiveness, seeking to cent, the mid-point of the target range, through next year.

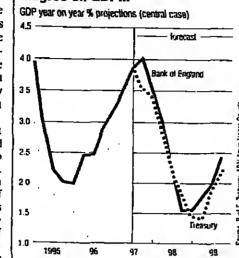
The main reason for the difuncertainties in the world, "the ference, apparently, is that the Bank thinks sterling will rise further in the early part of next year Well, a couple of days later (promoted presumably by one or two further increases in rates) This would be consistent with the sharp slowdown in growth: the combination of higher interest rates, a further squeeze on exports and greater competition from imports certainly ought to

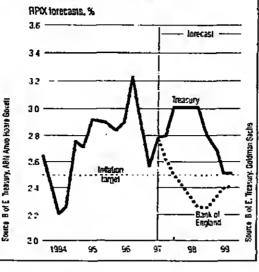
slow the economy down. But, as anyone with any experience in forecasting will appreciate, things are not always as they seem.

There seems to me to be three, maybe four, big uncertainties. The first is obviously the one identified above: the Treasury and the Bank's divergent views on inflation. There is clearly some sign of mounting growth and subsequent fall in and at some stage that ought, The Bank and the Treasury... ...agree on GDP...

Where will the pound be five years

from now? Will it even exist?





...but don't on inflation

to lead to upward wage pressure. But while there is also downward pricing pressure - the way in which any firm which ups its prices finds husiness running out of the door - this wage pressure may not be very marked.

Wages operate with a lag: we went on for a long time in the 1950s with very low levels of unemployment and without large wage increases because culturally there was not a climate of large wage demands. That climate seems to have been recreated today, a beneficial effect of all the job insecurity we have suffered.

Besides, there is still considerable room for boosting productivity. The Chancellor noted last week in his Green Budget that UK productivity was 20 per cent below continental competitors. If that is right, and in some industries it almost certainly is correct, then there is considerable scope for improvement. But it needs pressure to force out this productivity.

This is the second area of uncertainty. Will a strong ster-

if past experience is any guide. years ago there was a sudden. Europe isheading on a journey surge in the German mark. without maps The fourth possible uncer-This had a searing impact on

Germany industry, coming fainty is other external shocks: simultaneously with an excessive one might be more serious fallnay settlement; the result was out from the East Asian finanrapid downsizing of workforces. cial crisis than currently seems leading to the present levels of likely. Another would be a unemployment but also to sharp fall in the dollar, maybe sharply improved company associated with repairiation of performance, Once British Japanese funds from the US. firms are convinced that the Sterling behaves like a dollarpound may stay strong for some bloc currency, just as the UK time, they will presumably take economy behaves like a mini action to adjust their costs. The version of the US. So if the more radical that action, the dollar were to fall sharply it more likely it is that the pound's would probably drag the pound strength will be sustained. down with it.

The third area of uncer-On a five-year view then. tainty has nothing to do with us: where will the pound be? Have progress on the single European a poll among "opinion-formers" currency. The hest working asand I would expect the average sumption is that sterling's "safe on some weighted measure to haven" status will be retained be about 10 per cent below the until the euro is so close to present, maybe a bit lower still. launch that the chances of the My ber would be that it will be plan fulling apart are minimal. pretty much where it is now and just as likely to be higher as That suggests that the pound's strength might be retained not lower. That, at least, would be just through next year but be- my bet assuming that the pound yond into the first years of the still exists. It remains just posnext century. It would be helpsible that it won't. Even in a ful if one were able to cite his- democracy. do not underling have a radical impact on in-torical precedents as a guide, estimate the ability of politicians dustrial productivity? Three hut this is uncharted territory, to go against the electorate.

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

IOHN WILLCOCK



Anthony Julius, the litigation lawyer best known for the legal work he performed for Princess Diana. is seeking to divorce his wife and marry the daughter of a client of his firm, Mischon de Reva.

The saga started when Dina Rabianvitch, a London freelance journalist and mother of three, and her husband Guido Rauch, a derivatives trader at Banque Parihas, instructed Mr Julius 10 act on Dina's father's behalf.

According to The Lawrer magazine, the father, Nahum Rabinovitch, an ultra-orthodox rabbi who lives in Israel's West bank, had a legal dispute with a London publishing company. Dina Rahinovitch travelled with Mr Julius in March this year to see his client in Israel and to take witness statements, Mr Julius subsequently began settlement talks in May and reached an agreement six weeks later.

The publishers paid £40,000 towards Mr Julius's costs, leaving a balance of £32,000 paid by Guido Rauch.

While the case was going on Mr Julius and Dina appear to have decided to divorce their respective spouses and marry each other. Mr Julius fold his wife at the end of March that he was intending to leave her and Dina Rabinovitch announced that she was leaving her hushand a few days later.

Mr Julius, author of TS Elion Anti-Semitism and Literary Form, moved out of the family home in north-west London in July and Ms Rabinovitch left in November.

Mr Rauch said last night: "No comment." A spokeswoman for Mischon de Reya said on behalf of Mr Julius: "He's not commenting."

Guess which Government spokesman will announce today the details of New Labour's tax inducement for personal savings, to replace Pens and Tessus? None other than Geoffrey Robinsun, the Paymaster General, who is currently under a hall of fire from the Tories over

his role as a beneficiary of a £12.75m Guernsey-hased offshore trust. Personally 1 don't see what all the fuss is about. At least Mr Robinson will know what he's talking about.

Hoggett Bowers, the leading executive search and selection agency, has just sent out an exeiting piece of research to 1,000 of Britain's top companies about the merits of non-executive directors (NEDs).

In the circular the firm describes how it sent out a questionnaire to the chairmen of the country's 500 top listed companies, under the title: "The Fundaments of Research."

Hang on a minute. According to the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary, fundament has quite a different meaning to "fundamental", which is what I think the chaps at Hoggett & Bowers were getting at: "Fundament - The lower part of the body, on which one sits: the huttocks; also, the anus."

I suppose Hoggett Bowers may have unwittingly summed up what most company bosses really think of non-execs.

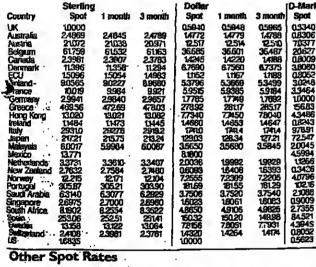
Which hrings us, entirely coincidentally, to Alliance & Leicester's chief executive, Peter White, who has just been appointed a nonexecutive director of Reckitt & Colman, Mr White has recently guided the former building society from mutual status into the ranks of Britain's high street hanks. I'm sure hall cut the mustard at R&C.

A member of the Ford car dynasty is set to chair the global motor company for the first time since 1980. William Clay Ford Jr will succeed manufacturing guru Alex Trotman when the latter retires at the end of 1999.

Henry Ford II was the last descendant of the founder of the Detroit car giant to head the firm. Since then the management has been dominated by non-family professionals. It is expected that Jacques Nasser, president of autometive operations, will become the next chief executive officer alongside William Clay Ford Jr. The company has asked Mr Trotman to remain as chairman and CEO until the end of the century, after his both birthday in July 1998, in order to complete his ambitious cost-cutting programmes.

Geoffrey Howe is to leave Clifford Chance and ioin Robert Fleming to be the investment bank's general counsel. No, not that Geoffrey Howe. This one is a career lawyer in his late forties who has spent the last nine years helping transform Clifford Chance from being a UK based firm to an international business. I wonder if his name is a help or a hindranee?

Singer & Friedlander has appointed Graham Hall as a director of its corporate finance division. Mr Hall was previously a director of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell's investment hanking division.



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TUE

It was a marvellous experience to go back through the last two days' preparation before a real race. You forget how, for a week beforehand, the body produces a series of complaints about

what you are going to do to it. Last Wednesday, my knee ached when I practised, and it sent a couple of sharp lances up the central nervous system to make sure I'd got the message. The next day, my back was up to the same tricks: "You can't race like this, especially at your age. You could do permanent damage. No amount of pride is worth il. Ring them up and say you'll come, but just as a spectator."

At the same time any attempts at the speed work that I was supposed to be doing were pathetic. I couldn't even find a pace at which I could expect to keep up for the whole of the simulated 2,000 metre course.

So, knowing from distant memory how the body and brain were colluding to maximise the discomfort now so that it would feel so much better on the day, I trusted to hope and did as lit-

tle as possible apart from a 15minute practice on the rowing machine each day.

on the machines

And yes, the aches eased miraculously throughout Saturday and a light paddle on the ergometer that evening ended with a brusque 500 metres of controlled ferocity which told me that I could achieve my target pace of 1min 35sec per 500 metres.

On Sunday morning I showed up at the huge sports hall in Reading early, and put in 20 minutes' warm-up just to get all the ystems moving right. The body dredged up no real complaints. Several hours then passed in a now familiar haze - some nerves, some calmness, some concentration on the task ahead.

They are fun, those last couple of hours before you test vourself really hard. The tingle of nerves heightens all sensations. You hear, see, feel more clearly. Then after another little warm-up it is time, and you step over the little picket fence into

There are rows and rows of machines but mine is No 4 in the front rank, because I have predicted a time of 6min 35sec for the full 2000 metres equivalent. I find myself next to a man who is vaguely familiar, though his grey beard disguises his features. He introduces himself as Brendan Sullivan, a Boat Race contemporary of mine who I haven't seen since he dropped out of the National squad 25 years ago to concentrate on his medical studies, I hope he's now a genius consultant, because he of us were winning medals.



Pulling power: Hugh Matheson gets into his stroke during the world indoor rowing championships

The countdown is quick and remorseless, no time for a quick rethink or any adjustment to the equipment. I do have a moment to remember that as a coach I always say, before sending my crew to race, "Enjoy yourself." This is not a penance; it's sup-27, even lower after one minute. posed to be a pleasure. If you are not capable of enjoying the phys-

'Ready... set ... go." Expecting a different rhythm I move early, but gently. No false start is recorded and we're into it. It's like an auction, this. You decide missed out on a lot when the rest a pace you can manage beforehand and stick to it. Others rac-

ical urge of racing you should

drop out. So I whisper it again

to myself. And I believe it.

ing alongside tempt you via the best drug on the market, adrenalin, to go faster, do more. It feels ridiculously easy. To match my target 1min 36sec per 500 metre quarter, I drop the number of strokes per minute to a cruising

The commentator, Chris Baillieu, an old friend, has me in the lead and the linle box on the computerised monitor agrees. but shows the margin as only a few metres. I am certain half-way through that things don't feel too bad and that I should not do anything extravagant, just hold the lead at a narrow margin and save any spare juice for a final push.

commentary is fading and the rate of strokes per minute is rising, but there is no punic. I can finish like this and even put in a little flourish. Then the box says I've dropped to second place. Okay, put in a 10-stroke burn and get it back. Four strokes later my closest pursuer is three metres behind and there's only 300 metres to gr. I stop watching anything but the remaining metres

as they click away. The rest of the world has gone quiet, except for the voice of Simon Larkin, who I couched as an under-23 international in the single sculls and is one of the few voices I could accept at this and I'm astonished to have it hap-In the last 500 metres, the point in the race. He is at my pen now, So much for Mr Con-

"You're in front just keep it going". As we come down to the line I am concentrating utterly on the fluctuating margin of the lead, sometimes one metre, sometimes three. We are down to the last few metres and with Simon's urging I think I'm there. But as soon as we stop it is ash and not nectar. Silver, not gold. John Mottram, from the Cambridge Free Press Club. has nipped in front in the last few

This is a new experience. In my previous competitive life 1 rarely lost a nip-and-tuck finish.

shoulder quietly telling me. trol. Didn't know when to throw caution to the wind and get hit the rookie tight end Tork stuck in, did he? Let a tougher. sharper racer take him on the line. I'm ashamed that one who

has preached so often that, come

after the race, the blood is up.

Damn it. I'm hooked again.

self down in this way. The difference between winforget and start making plans to strokes and I am left cursing.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

San Francisco are fodder for Gannon

Rich Gannon passed for three touchdowns, including a pair to Andre Rison, as the Kansas Cay Chiefs pushed on to a 44-9 rous of San Francisco on Sunday, ending the 49ers' f1-game winning streak.

It was the worst regular season loss for San Francisco, already winners of the NPC Western Division title, since a 59-14 defeat at Dallas in 1980 San Francisco also suffered a 49-3 play-off defeat to the New York Giants in 1986.

"We played as well today as think we can play," Marty Schottenheimer, the Chiefs' coach, said. "There's clearly nor that kind of point differential be. tween us. It was just one of those days. Things went our way."

The wheels came off a bit and then it snowballed," Steve Mariucci, the 49ers coach, said. "We got frustrated."

Gannon, making his fourth start for the injured Elvis Grbae completed 12-of-21 passes for 186 yards. He has led the Chiefs to consecutive victories over Denver, Seattle and San Francisco. Kansas City remained one game behind Denver, leaders of the AFC West.

Rison caught five passes for. 117 yards, including touchdowns of six and 29 yards. Gannon also Gonzalez with a two-yard scoring pass. Marcus Allen scoref on a three-vard run and connected with the tight end Ted what may, you race through the : Popson, a former 49er, on a oneline, not up to it should let him- yard touchdown in a 21-point

second quarter for Kansas City. Meanwhile, in San Diego, ning and losing is also about how John Elway threw for 240 yards you feel the physical damage. and three touchdowns and Ter-This time it hurt. But you soon rell Davis ran for 178 and a score in his homocoming as the train for more than six weeks be- . Denver Broncos became the fore the next competition and to first AFC team to earn a playset the target well ahead of this ' off place with a 38-28 victory one. Already, less than an hour over the Chargers.

Results and standings,

PHILIPS

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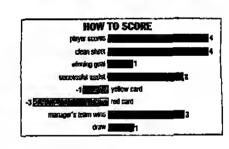
Today we publish the latest results of The Independent Fantasy Football League. The player scores are for all League games played until Sunday 30 November. The league table includes all scores up to 23 November. The monthly winner will receive a pair of tickets to an England home international, while the overall winner gets a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France.

Every time one of your players score you get four points. There are four points for a keeper or a defender every time their team keeps a clean sheet. If a player scores the winning goal, i.e.: if there is a one goal difference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the winning team is awarded I bonus point awarded in addition to standard goal related points. Each successful Assist, a pass judged by our experts to lead directly to a goal, will give a player 3 points. The opinion of our experts on the matter is final. Each player selected and starting a game will be awarded one point.

If a player is given a Yellow Card they lose I point, if a player is given a Red Card they lose 3 points. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count.

The Premiership Manager that you choose will be awarded 3 points if their real-life feam wins. I point is awarded if they draw and no points are given it they lose.

Updated player scores and league tables will be published every Tuesday in The Independent and repeated the following Sunday in the Independent on Sunday.



INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL

LEAGUE TABLE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 8 AUGUST - 23 NOVEMBER POINTS NAME TEAM Miss Lisa Wild Amoretto The Untouchables Mr B Sarl Mr David Aston Billy Boys 2nd II Mr Chris King Seeking Victory Pin 4 Ups Mr Phil Tuffer Boothen End Old Boys Southville FC Mr John Cox Mr Martin Pawle Roberts Rovers Simply The Best Mr David Baker Mr Abdul Choudi Nickies 9th I Unbeatable Edmo United Mr David Edmington Mr Tony Brazie Mr Ian Boyle The Dream Tear Mr A Wingrove Tony's Brace Mr Chris Thoma Scunthorpe Extra: Diane's Demons Mr Tom Lyons Washed Up Army Mr D Depoit Ouick Start 532 531 530 530 530 530 529 527 527 Look Lively Mr Brady Powis Rangers 24 26 25 25 26 29 Retro Rovers Mr John Cox Cettle Warriors Mr E Gromle The Killer Bees Mr David Bake Dead Beat Boreham United Mr David Borehar Mr Ken Boyle Clogston Rovers Pin Ups 2 Mr P Tuiser Aller Lamberg Mr Michael Rickard One Watt City Mr | Salt 526 524 524 523 522 522 521 521 Mr Trevor Russ Sammy's Soccer Mr David Aston Billy's Boys Washed Up Army Mr I Crossam Mr G Bell Sounning Sounce Mr A Cumm The Zebra Mr Steven Mann Rebecca Rovers

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4 Petat 5 Crimonda 6 Winterburn 7 Bould 8 Adams 9 Keown 0 Stanzion 3 Southgate 4 Elnogu 6 Wright 7 Scimeca 6 Wright 7 Scimeca 9 Moses 0 Appleby 3 Thumpson 4 Krizan 5 Le Saux 7 Coleman 6 Le Saux 7 Coleman 7 Kenna 9 Hendry 9 Kenna 9 Hendry 9 Kenna 9 Hendry 9 Kenna 10 Hendry 9 Kenna 10 Hendry 17 Griffith 18 Crimonda 18	ARS 0 33 A ARS 0 33 A ARS 1 2 4 4 5 ARS 1 2 4 6 BAR 0 6 1 6 BAR 0	5 508 Kvarme 2 749 Bjurnebye 2 549 Mattus 5 534 Kr Neville 5 536 Irwin 5 536 Irwin 5 536 May 5 536 May 5 537 Politicum 6 543 Albert 6 544 Howey 6 545 Pecouck 6 547 Barted 6 558 Blondeau 6 558 Blondeau 6 559 Alberton 6 550 Alberton 6 550 Alberton 6 550 Alberton 6 550 Nowmer 7 55	TIP CAN MANN MANN MANN MANN MANN MANN MANN	16 13 14 2 2 10 2 10 2 10 2 10 2 10 2 10 2 10	648 Seffars 649 Guttu 650 Oi Matteo 653 Wise 654 Newton 655 P Hughes 656 Baheyam 657 Teffer 658 Richardson 650 MeAllister 651 Johansen 654 Johansen 654 Johansen 655 Asarawic core 11 Powell 667 Van Der Latn 668 Duilly 669 Hursi 669 Trann 674 Farrelly 675 Steam 676 Speed	BOL CHE	19 0 4440 577 4 10 58 8 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12	755 Ardley 756 Fear 757 C Hughes STRIKERS 800 Bergkamp 803 Wright 804 Bournorte Percira 805 Vorkt 806 Josephin 807 Collymore 808 Williamson 809 Hendre 830 Hendre 831 Hristin 835 Dahlin 836 AleGinlay 837 Blake 838 Vially 840 Ma Fluglies 841 Loy, Andre Par	WIM WIM ARS ARS AV AV AV BAR BAR BLA BOL CHE CHE	1 27 20 0 0 20 1 14 20 1 54 72 0 0 20 5 34 87 0 12 24 1 24 81 1 25 81 1 26 81 1 27 81 1 28 81	MANAGER 900 Wenger 903 Linte 904 Wilson 905 Hodgson 906 Todd 907 Culliti 908 Strachan 919 Cuppell 930 Smith 931 Kendall 934 Graham 935 O'Neill 906 Evans 437 Forguson 938 Dulgh-h 130 Pleal 940 Jinnes 941 Frances 943 Frances 944 Redlenapp 945 Kinneau		0 / 27 0 18 0 13 0 30 3 16 0 17 3 19 0 23 3 26 3 32 3 34 3 34 3 3 34 3 3 34 3 3 34 3 3 34 3 3 3 34 3 3 3 3

SNOOKER.

McKenzie

starts revolt

The sacking of Jim McKenzie,

the chief executive, vesterday af-

ter only five months in the post

has left the sport in danger of

the World Professional Bil-

liards and Snooker Associa-

tion last July but his job bas

been in jeopardy since he fell

vear-old chairman. Rex

Now the leading manager

Doyle said: "War has been

McKenzie was appointed by

dismissal

breaking apart.

Williams.

ERICAN FOOTBALL

Gannon

fs pushed on to a 41-4 mg without a voice. og the 49ers' 11-game win

was the worst regular ve betrayed the cause of oss for San Francisco a protection for betting's y winners of the NFr consumers. defeat at Dallas in 1981

play-off defeat to the New were in a very good mood last nk we can play. Man itch that was NAPP, it had sudttenheimer, the Chief denly gone away all by itself. h, said. "There's clearly has Normal service had been re-

and of point differentially stored at last, and the punters Things went our way squeezed dry without anyone The wheels came of (4); raising so much as 8 whimper. hen it snowballed. Sig. In dozens of boardrooms, it was ucci, the 49ers coach, an trebles all round. got frustrated."

annon, making his tounk RACING'S FUTURES MARKET for the injured Elvis Infra ands. He has led the Chief and in the Hennessy Gold insecutive victories and sup at Newbury on Saturday. . Kansas City remaine, Ladbrokes and the Tote for the for the Champion Hurdle. ame behind Denver, lest

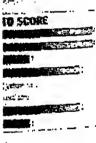
f the AFC West. ison caught five passes in ards, including tour house and 29 yards, Gannonak to rookie tight and Top salez with a fine-yard sagass. Marcus Allen song three-yard run and oned with the tight and In on a former 45 r. on done RESULTS

the quarter for Automotive RELSO

READY IN THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY O

Digest, page 3 2.20: 1. CEILIDH BOY (B Storey) 13-2; Digest, page 3 2. D'Arbiny Street 7-1; 3. Ash he Later 11-1; 0 fav. 5 ran, fit, lifes J Goodfellow, Earl-ston). Tota: £730: 1210, £290. DF: £1500. CSF: £3830.





LUGUST . 30 NOVEMBS

- 115

B18*/5

12.40: 1. JUST JASMINE (R Greene) 5-4
fav: 2. Datch Dyame 16-1; 3. Gatacia 5-1.5
ran. c. 114. N. Bishop, Bridgweden, Tota:
12.40; 100; 1630. DP: 1500. CSF: C1421. Nt.
Hill Farm Blues.
1.10: 1. SSCATTEFIGUE (A Magure) 1-3
far: 2. Dishops 1408 5-1; 3. General Tonic far, 2. Denham Hill 5-1; 3. General Tonic 12-1, 4 mm. 6, 6. (D. Nicholson, Temple Gui-ting), Totac £120. DF: £170. CSF: £228. 1.40: J. ROYALE ANGELA (R Johnson) 8-8 Sey Z. Almai Solt II 8-1; S. Court Cir-tular (L-1-4 ran. 4, sh hd. (J. Newsen, New-port) Educ 2170: DF: \$4.20. CSF: \$5.31. 240: 1, EASY PEELIN (A Magure) 1-7 240: 1, EASY PEELIN (A Magure) 1-7 25: 2, Bood Lord Marphy 8-1; 3, Folding 59-1,5 stm. 3, dist. (D Nicholson, Temple Gu-ling) Testic \$100, £000, £250, DF: £40, CSF: 2184. . . .

184 3.10:1. TIDEEROOK (M. R. Weldey) 11-8 at: 2. Hawkfield 2-1; 3. Well Timed 9-2. 5 at. 37, 37,-(K. Beiley, Upper Lambourn). Her 520; 510 518; DF: 5230 CSF: 5400. \$40,1, FESTIVE TEAK (R Messey) 4-6 br. 2 Dumbury Fiyer 8-1; 3. Beerly Nove to 2 Dumbury Fiyer 8-1; 3. Beerly Nove 18: 2. Dumbury Flyer 8-1; 3. Beefy Nova 8-18 tan. 11/4; 12 (O Nicholson). Total: £170; 210, £140; £130. DF: £3.60. CSF; £608. pot: 52010. Quadpot: 58.50. Place & £835. Place 5: £442.

Frankie Dettori makes an unespecied return to action in Britain on the Equitrack at Lingfield today. He is engaged to ride Sweet Supposin for Newmarket trainer Chris Diver in Division Two of the Marsh Green Handicap....



Punters betrayed by Labour's empty promises

The National There are those who claim nothing but subscriptions (it was Board. The Board exists for no ahandrin meetings (normal pules, that magistrates hand out NAPP delegation that, if their Association for the that punters are simply not a just £10 a year), and even then other reason than to distribute businesses, you might imagine. Gannon passed for this Protection of Punters very clubbable bunch of people. hdowns, including a pair (NAPP) is no more, and re Rison, as the Karbaccia Britain's punters are left It's nonsense, of course. OF-GAS, OFWAT and – sumewhat ironically - OFLOT look after did not do so afterwards. At the the collective interests of con-Greg Wood on the sumers of gas, water and the Lottery. But until the Nation- could call on almost unlimited empty promises which al Association for the Protection of Punters came along, it was

easy for the administrators ey. They were, in effect, under whose fat salaries are paid - via the Levy - out of backers' pock-Francisco also suffered A great many powerful people cts to treat their benefactors like cashpoint machine which didn't bother to keep count.

We played as well today a of scratching frantically at the of people who had little in the we can play a scratching frantically at the of people who had little in Rut they had all tak-Friday evening. After six years NAPP itself was composed common. But they bad all 1aken a long look at the amount of money which punters put into aus. It was just one of the of Britain could again be tion the Exchequer), and then another at the contempt with which they are treated, and decided - this is wrong. For years they existed on Trickey explained: "The track Creek Chase at Sandown.

1998 Triumph Hurdle (2m If)

Each-way a quarter the odds, places, 1, 2, 3 (Chellenham, Thursday, 18 Marc

Horse (Trainer) The French Purze (M Pipe)

Reinbow Frontier (A P O'Brien/iri)

Supply And Demend (G L Moore)

2.50: 1. CASH BOX (N Smith) 6-5 fac 2.

FOLKESTONE '

1.00: 1. EURO FORUM (O Burrows) 2-1; 2. Mr Chataway 10-1; 3. Occold 4-7 fel. 5 ran, 3.2%. (J Gifford) Yote: £310; £160, £550. DF; £320, CSF: £1704.

DF; £320. CSF: £1704.

3.1.30: 1. SILENT CRACKER (G Bradey)

4.1.10: 1. SILENT CRACKER (G Bradey)

4.1.10 rm. 11/4. 3. (M Pitman). Tiota: £1240;

£260. £200; £00. DF; £1380. CSF: £2790.

Tio: £1250. NF: Eligni

2.00: 1. ANTONIO MARIANO (I. Aspel)

5-2 sar; 2. Daving King 20-1; 3. Keep Me

in Mind in 2-8 rau, 7: 2: (F Mooney). Tota:

£390; £190. £650. £160. DF; £1690. CSF:

£2223. Triaset: £23856.

2.30: 1. CHSFEKY CHARLIE (D Gallschart)

2.30 1. CHEEKY CHAPLIE (D Galegher) 4-1; 2. Calbochon 11-4 fav; 3. Rose Dencer 5-1 8.48. 1/4, 8, (6 i. Moore) Toter EBBC; 2-20, 2:10, 2:20-0F; 2:10, CSF; 2:1483. Tri-cest: 2:105.

Cast: £50.6.

3.00: 1. DREAM LEADER (M A Pitzger-sid) 7-2; 2. Secret Bid 10-1; 3. Lay 1: On: 44 Stan. 9-4 tox Jac Del Prince. 2, 7. (M Ruberist Total: £120; £180, £230, £230, £230 DF: £390 CSF; £3578. Tricast: £196.5. Tric: £3220

3.30: 1. PENNYWISE (S Kelly) 10-1; 2. Deep C Diva 4-1 it far; 3. Landa's Coursel 4-1 it far, 18 ran, 174, 76, Mass Vanelfa Wilsons) 10:06: \$140: 2530, 2200, \$140. DF: 22470, CSF: \$5197. This: \$2980.

bulgoth not won; £15,783.23 camed forward o Newcastle today

Placepot: 95010, Quadrot: £1500

WORCESTER

Vent D'Aout (M Pipel

nletted 12-of-2! passer for After his victory over Barton Cheltenham Gold Cup. Sanmartino, who beat I'm Supposin by 13 lengths in the Gerry er, Scattle and San Fran Suny Bay is a top-priced 7-1 with Feilden Hurdle is 14-1 with Hills

2m William Hill Mandicap Hurdle at Sandown on Saturdary (Best prices in bold) William Hill: 6-1 Granes, 7-1 Pottors Gaic 7-1 Stomytainvesters; 07-1 Alabang, 10-1 Doctor 10-1 Princeld, 11-1 Potentate, 12-1 Crail-Vo 14-1 Carito Bigante, 14-1 Els Agapi Mu, 14-1 Kerawi, 14-1 Ristrawaki, 16-1 Gabe Purnet, 20-1 Barna Boy, 20-1 Beltato, 20-1 Forestal, 20-1 Lady Daoj, 20-1 Major Jamas, 20-1 Sker Groom, 25-1 New Inn. 33-1 Cool Gunner, 33-1 Kannocaèl, 33-1 Nian Virlage, 33-1 Purisah, 40-1 Greenback, 50-1 Danegold, 66-1 Napor Red Ladibrokase: 5-1 Grones, 6-1 Stomytanweather. Greenback, 50-1 Darregold, 66-1 Nipper Red Ladbrokae: 5-1 Grmés, 6-1 Stormytarweather, 8-1 Doctock 8-1 Rotter's Gale, 10-1 Chel-ho 10-1 Princehal, 12-1 Barna Boy, 12-1 Nahrawall, 12-1 Potensiala, 14-1 Alabang, 14-1 Carino Brg-amta, 14-1 Ela Agspi Mou. 44-1 Globe Furner, 14-1 Kerawa, 20-1 Bestator, 20-1 Forestal, 20-1 Lady Daley, 25-1 Cod Gumer, 25-1 Kinnecash, 25-1 Mejor, Jamie, 25-1 New Im., 25-1 Suver Broom, 33-1 Punikat, 40-1 Danegold, 40-1 Greenback, 50-1 Non Virange, 66-1 Nipper Red.

the other side of the hattlefield

resources. Worst of all, most of

it was, originally, betting mon-

The higgest villain in this re-

spect was not BOLA, which, af-

ter all is paid to push the

meeting at Newton Abbot to be

friendly fire.

would cheerfully take up cases money - a little over £50 milon behalf of people who had not lion annually - collected from joined NAPP beforehand, and punters via the tax on off-

> RICHARD EDMONDSON **NAP: French Holly** (Newcastle 12,20) NB: Grey Shot (Newcastle 12.50)

course bets.

They spend £2 million just on administrating themselves. They dish out £300,000 a year course hookies, but the Levy which have been forced to

would take out insurance against the weather), and an astonishing £163,000 to point-toprint racing, which do not generate a single penny of Levy. And yet, when NAPP asked for £250,000 to employ up holiday form, have no hope of to five full-time staff, fighting for and defending the sort of rights which other consumers would take for granted, the Board

treated them with contempt. So long as the money keeps rolling in, they do not seem to

interests of the biggest off- to compensate racecourses care that no worthwhile system exists for resolving betting dis-

Newton Abbot off due to waterlogging Prolonged rain in the West was raceable yesterday but we Tingle Greek acceptors: Arcue kinsmin in furtion-Danest, Ask forn it Tates, Ceiscate G. Kanni, Indian Iodes; MR Pices Ricard Daris IA Moore Int, Muliquin ID Nicholsoni, On So Risky, ID Esward Int. Or Royal IM Pipes, Valing Fingsho ID Nacholsoni Country has caused today's got another (to inches o) rain," David Nicholson has de-

29/RACING

Castrmans bet: 5 2 Naron Durs, 4-12 Allgan, Vang Fagstap, 92 Ab. for, 11-2 O. Rossi, 14-1 Artic Krisman, 16-1 Celbate, 50-1 Ingan Jose ev, Oh So Picky abandoned owing to waterlog- clared. Viking Flagship and ging. Clerk of the course Mike Mulligan for Saturday's Tingle

1998 Cham	pion H	urdle (2m	ı IIOyds)	
Horse (Trainer)	Coral	Withorn Hill	Lactbrokes	Total
Shadow Leader (C Egerlon)	6-1	 5-1	6-1	5-1
Istabraq (A P O Bnen/M)	6-1	6-1	5-1	5-1
Make A Stand (M Pipe)	741	81	7-1	7.1
Sanmertino (O Nicholson)	E-1	14-1	10-1	£-1
Zaralaska (O Nichoton)	16-1	14-1	16-1	18-1
Codier Bay (J Old)	16-1	20-1	14-1	16-1
Grimes (C Roche/n)	20-1	16-1	141	16-1
i'm Supposin (A Rowe)	20-1	25-1	25-1	16-1
Maredio (Mrs M Reveloy)	25-1	25-1	25-1	16-1
Prichaell (M Pipe)	25-1	20-1	30-1	20-1
Juyush (J Old)	33-1	33-1	33-1	33-1
Dato Star (J M Jefferson)	16-1	33-1	33-1	25-1
Space Trucker (Mrs. J Harrington)	33-1	33-1	25-1	25-1

betting licences like confetti, or that dodgy bookies (Front Line and Bowmans in the last couple of years alone) can go bust owing hundreds of thousands of pounds to punters who, unlike tourists stranded by a collapsed

Seven months ago, the Board's attitude was all too predictable. NAPP were troublemakers, revolting peasants who made life uncomfortable for their lords and masters as they practised the noble art of sticking their noses in the trough.

compensation.

Hang on in there, though, the campaigners were told by various Labour Party contacts. After the election, things will be different. It was, like so many others, an empty promise. Last Thursday, George Hiswarth, made it perfectly clear to a at the House of Commons.

orana Pride (M. Hourgar: Iri

The Grey Monk (G Ret-ards)

Addington Boy (5 Rehards)

Imperial Cell (F Sucherland In)

Simply Dashing if Easterby

20-1

33-L

FORM GUIDE

Nigel's Lad and (NN AT THE TOP were both decent novices last season who won over 2m4t. Nigel's Lad ran his rivats ragged on this course in February and he was last seen, along with Great Easeby, in the Cesarewrich. I just favour inn At The Top, who won three tries on laster ground and who also put up a sound affort in defeat against Beggiars Banquet on this course. For a horse who bear Mighty Moss (aecond to listabreg at the Cheltenham Festival) at Doncastec inn At The Top looks very well weighted. Winning chaer Tough Test will stay every yard and can be given a chance off only 10st, but 12st looks a stopper for Great Easeby, who was off the course all of last jumps season. But his presence has kept the weights down, which has done a favour to stablemate Zamhameer, who should be sharper for a run at Ayr last month after some deappointing runs on the lavel. Hit The Canwas has a more realistic chance after two runs with a welter burden, though faster ground has suited him in the past.

Selection; INN AT THE TOP

POLYFLOR AND NEWCASTLE FLOORING NOVICE

CHASE (CLASS D) £4,950 added 3m Penalty Value £3,566

COMMITTED SCHEDULE (8) (The Schedule Partnership) G Richards 6 to 10 .. P Nive

4-522 MAYBE O'GRADY [14] (D) (Mrs Ann Beil) W Cunninghom 6 Ti 14. — N Smith
4-522 MAYBE O'GRADY [14] (D) (Mrs Ann Beil) W Cunninghom 6 Ti 14. — N Smith
4-522 FERN LEADER (25) (D) (Robin Ward) C Grant 7 To 12. — R Dumwoody
F545P MCKSONS CHOICE (12) (Ichn Ward) D Wards 9 To 12. — Mr S Durack (5)
29323/ OVER THE CORRIB (616) (D) (LIW P Curts) J Curts 7 To 12. — Mr S Durack (5)
461-LI PURIEVALUE (19) (CD) (Mrs Jean Turpo) Mr M Easterby 6 To 12. — P Carberry
4-4405 CUIXALL CROSSETT (3) (Mrs Kiven Woodhead) E Carne 12 To 12 — Staylor (5)
35-733 MADICAL CHOICE (849) (11A Chordron J Chardton 8 To 12.

35:13/ RADICAL CHOICE (849 LLI A Cheritori) J Chariton B 10 12... B Storey AUL22- WINTER BELLE (USA) (340) (Mrs M W Bird) J Howard Johnson B 10 12. E Callaghar

BETTING: 7-4 Fern Leader, 3-1 Purevalue, 4-1 Committed Schedule, 5-1 Maybe O'Grady, 8-1 Win

FORM GUIDE

This is a lough course for novices or fin going along with COMMITTED SCHEDULE to conlimit the Hexham form with Form Leader even on the bad lerms. Fern Leader is liable to clump a few but a 12th pull for the neck bearing by Committed Schedule (won since at Catterick) gives him a great chance with a clear found. Fern Leader has changed stables since last season and will be indien by Richard Durwoody, who has won on Purevalue, a decent staying hurder last season but an early cacualty on his change debut at Market Rasen. Winter Belle disappointed last season, but Maybe O'Grady seems to be getting better and he hurtled up the classy Forest Ivory at Wethertry last time.

Selection: COMMITTED SCHEDULE

3.30 ST. MODWEN STANDARD DPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m Penalty Value £1,413

MASTEN WOOD USA.

MASTEN WOOD USA.

MASTEN WOOD USA.

SAVONARA (33) IN Chamberlant In Chamberlan 4 II 4

SNUFF BOX IC J Cookson; 6 Machaggart 4 II 4.

SNUFF BOX IC J Cookson; 6 Machaggart 4 II 4.

SNUFF BOX IC J Cookson; 6 Machaggart 4 II 4.

R Supple

TELL ME ANOTHER (50) (John Mode: J Wade 5 II 4.

STaylor (6)

TRIP YOUR TRAGGER (640) Parther Racing Ltd C Grant 6 II 4.

J Callaghan

WHAT A FALE (301) (BF) (Jerm Partnersho) Mrs. M Reveley 5 II 4.

WHOTHER (301) (BF) (Jerm Partnersho) Mrs. M Reveley 5 II 4.

P Niven

FLOSS THE BOSS (246) If M Lynch) Mrs. J Brown 4 IO IS

C McCorranck (7)

ISLAND PATH (J Netson) L Lungo 4 IO IS

W Downing (7)

FORM GUIDE

KINGS MEASURE (22) (D) John H Wisson(J Jefferson 4 12 0

CHAPARRO AMARGOSO (60) (D) (J A Berryl B Elison 4 11 11 QUEENSWAY (201) (D) (G E ShouAsh J FizzGerald 5 11 11 . SILLYMONE (16) (D) (Mrs M I Nisbell P Montenth 4 11 9

BRIANCH END INS J.J. Straken J. Charlon 5 ft 4

BRIEF SUSPENCE (312) (A & K Lingeret R Fahay 4 ft 4

CARLINGFORD TYKE (23) (Jostigo Raeng) T Carr 5 ft 4

O CHARLE O'OR (16) (a F Brown J Dodds 4 Ti 4

DOMMYBROOK (213) (R Smith (both)) R Woodhouse 4 Ti 2

GUS BERRY (i) M Forsier () M Forsier 4 Ti 2

JOE BUZZ (Joe Buzzer) F Murphy 5 Ti 4

MASTER WOOD (Roy Robmson) C Grant 6 Ti 4

O SAYONARA (33) (M Chambersant N Chambersan 4 Ti 4

52 TALL TALE (33) (John Wade) J Wade S to 11

1996 Majority Major 7 to 12 A S Smith 14-1 (P Cheesbrough) 11 ran

25-1

Barton Bank (D Nicholson)

Rough Quest (T Casey)

Sparky Gayle (C Parker)

rong Promise (G Hubbaro

Surry Bay (C Brocks)

Mr Mulligan (N Chance)

Cyborgo (M Pipe)

work was to continue, it would do so unfunded.

"He didn't want to know," Michael Singer, NAPP's chairman, says. "We made it clear that once we walked out, we would be curtailing the operation, but he just didn't care." So, when next you venture into the unregulated world that is British betting, remember that you do so without consumer protection.

Pray that your bookie does not go under, or discover an ob- out with the association's 64scure rule which turns your bet from a winner into a loser, for you will complain alone, and noone will listen.

18n Doyle will call for a special Singer believes it Ta nationgeneral meeting to try to overthrow Williams. It was Dovle al scandal that the Government collects £1.4 billion a year who led the last rebellion earfrom gambling but not a penly this year to help Williams sucny of it goes back to protect the ceed the former chairman people providing it." Anyone Geoff Foulds. who agrees should direct their declared. It's a disgraceful sitthe Home Office minister, comments to George Howarth uation. There are 8 number of

people who have not stood up to be counted." 1998 Cheltenham Gold Cup Chase (3m 2f 110yds) Dovle then confirmed his determination to bring down Williams and two of the chairmen's supporters, Bob Close 7-1 and Jim Mesdowcroft, wbo were elected following the previous coup. Dovle said: "Jim is absolutely astonished by what's 20-1 20-1 25-1

happened, especially as be didn't have a hearing."

Discussing bis dismissal, McKenzie said : "At no time have I been given an opportunity to respond to any criticism the board may have of my performance. Nor am I sware of

ICE HOCKEY

Panthers hit by Bishop injury scare

Nottingham Panthers are awaiting a specialist's report on the back injury sustained by Mike Bishop during Saturday's Superleague victory at home to Basingstoke Bison.

The 33-year-old defender collapsed four minutes into the X-rays showed no break, but a spinal expert is to examine Bishop, who has been allowed out of hospital but is still in pain.

Inspired netminding by the former Sbeffield Steeler, Wayne Cowley, almost denied his former team a crucial Superleague win, but the Steelers bit back from 2-0 down to beat Cowley's Newcastle Cohras 3-2 in overtime.

In The Express Cup, an eightteam competition for Superleague sides. Avr Scottish Eagles maintained their 100 per cent record with a fifth consecutive win, 5-3 over Basingstoke Bison.

Manchester Storm led Nottingham Panthers 3-1 after the first 20 minutes, but the Superleague leaders came back to win 6-5, Kraig Neinhaus scaling his hat-trick with the winner, 36 seconds into sudden death.

HOCKEY

. E Caltaghar

.P Carberry . 1 Jardine (7)

. O Parke

Knapp happy with Cannock

Exactly what we wanted," Old Cranleighans player-coach, David Knapp, said on learning of their home quarter-final tie in the English Hockey Association Cup against the Premier League leaders, Cannock.

"We will learn more by playing Cannock than anyone else." he said. "Clearly, we are very much the underdogs but it will be the biggest day in the club's history. They play Southgate the previous day, so who knows?" With Sunday's win against

Spalding extending OC's record to 19 wins in as many games this season. Knapp has reason to be confident.

The draw also features two all-Premiership contests. Canterbury visit Birmingham to take on Barford Tigers and Becston, who produced a surprise defeat of Southgate on Sunday, travel to Doncaster.

The second non-National League side in the last eight, Chichester, have a home draw against Stourport, the only team left in the competition to have contested a Cup final when they were beaten 3-0 by Havant at Luton in 1990.

EHA CUP Quarter-finals: Old Cranleighens v Cannock; Barlord Tigers v Canterbury; Doncaster v Breston; Crichester v Stourport. Ties to be played Sunday 25 January.

Bill Colwill

NEWCASTLE

12.20 French Hally 12.50 I'm Maggy 1.55 Elusive Star (nb)

GOING: Good

HYPERION 2.25 Nigel's Lad 2.55 Committed Schedule 1.25 ANABRANCH (nap) 3.30 King's Measure

20-1

GOING: Good.

Left-hand, oval course; with righg run-in; tough, galloping track.

Course is on At 5m N of town, Majno service to Four Lane Ends station from Newcastle raiway station. Bus service from there, ADMISSION: Cub £15; Tathersalis £3; Siver Ring £4 (22 for OA% and registered disabled) CAR PARIC Free.

LEADING TRAINERS: Mirs M Revoley 35-149 (235%), G Richards £3-65 (185%), J Howard Johnson £3-109 (17%), P Cheesbrough 11-73 (51%), J M Jeffreson 70-35 (286%), © LEADING JOCKEYS; P Niven 56-21 (298%), B Storey 14-729 (10%), P Garritty 13-73 (1786), L Wyor 11-79 (39%), T Reed 9-69 (13%), R Garritty 13-73 (1786), L Wyor 11-79 (39%), T Reed 9-69 (13%), R Garritty 13-73 (1786).

ı	4	2.20	NORTHERN RACING NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E 12,925 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £2,379
ŀ	<u>-</u>		FRENCH HOLLY (USA) (16) (K Flood) F Murphy 6 11 5 A Thornton
l:	2	0.5	ANGRY NATIVE (24) (John Wede) J Wade S 10 12 9 Taylor (5
	ā	Ď	BARTON BLACK (NZ) (53) (Startey W Clarke) S Brookshaw 5 to 12 S Wyrm
	4	0F5-3P	DAN DE MAN (10) (David J Poulter Partnership) Miss L Sidool 6 to 12 R Durwoods
1 :	S	0P6P-4	POINT DUTY (22) (J.J. Henderson) F Murtigh 7 to 12 B Store
	8	00-50	SUMO (24) (Mrs Jennifer Woodward) Mrs S Lamymen 4 10 12 J Magee (3
l	7		SUNSTRIKE (299) (R McDoneld) R McDoneld 5 to 12 R Suppli
l٤	В	O/	SUSHI BAR (F57) (Vernousser Partnership) Mrs M Reveley 8 to 12 P Niver
Ĺ	9	2-0	YOUNG TOMO (14) (Michael Thompson) J Howard Johnson 5 10 12 E Callaghan
1	10	00-00	CEEJAYELL (10) (Northumberland Group Raping Club) N Chamberlan 4 10 7 T Reed
1	11		KERRISDALE (Brandsby Racing) P Beaumont S to 7 B Grattan (5
1	12		LADYLANDS (Stammok Recing) Miss S Williamson 4 107
	3		PHEASANTS DELIGHT (Geoff Pickering) Mrs M Reveley 7 to 7 . N Smith
1	4	0-0	RAG DOLL (20) (The Sun Punters Club) J Howard Johnson 5 to 7 D Parket
1	5		SANTA BARBARA (384) (B Heyes) C Grant 8 10 7

15 doctared BETTING: 2-5 French Holly, 5-1 Sushi Bar, 10-1 Young Tomo, 12-1 Dan de Man, 14-1 Karrisdale, Barton Black, 16-1 Sente Berbera, 20-1 Phessente Delight, 33-1 others
1886: Boggers Banquet 8 to 12 B Greatan (7) 9-2 (P Beaumont) 18 ran
FRENCH HOLLY is a star act who can be backed to dely the penalty after an impressive win at Ayr from Ledgendry Line, who won at Kelco yesterday. A tending bumper horse two sessons ago and sixth to Florida Pearl at the Chetterharm Festival last season. French Holly should prove much too good for this opposition, especially as he sput up in distance. Kerntsdale is a half-eister to some jumping winners and the stable had a newcomerate winner in Jayr M at Cardiste last week so Kerntsdale is filely to be fit enough. Young Tomo, second to the smart Kings Measure in a bumper last season, wants this trip judged on his hundles showing behind Cauller at Wetherby, Sushi Bar, a three-omes winner on the Flat from 12 to 16 furlongs, is likely to do befter now after showing nothing on his jumping debut here two years ago. Santa Barbara and Barton Black can do better after their bumper runs, though they cannot be fanced to contain the favourite. Rischard burnwoody index a slow sort in Dan de Man, who was pulled up at Market Rasen last time.

1_		TOTAL THE PROPERTY AND USE OF A POST OF
16	10 50	NEWCASTLE FLOORING AND HALSTEAD'S NOVICE
11	I Z.JL	NEWCASTLE FLOORING AND HALSTEAD'S NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m Pen Value £2,463
(-		AIR BREDGE (23) (N W A Barraster) R Whitakes 5 10 12
11	0800-U	API BREAGE (23) (N W A BOYTSES) IN WINDOWS S OF E
(<u>2</u>	5	ALPINE HIDEAWAY (3) (Easterby Trajers) M W Easterby 4 to 12
] 3	14/20-	BALLAD MINSTREL (265) (D) (G E Shoulet) J FizzGerald 5 10 12
1 1	O/P-	BILIE LUGANA (P220) (J A Sweburne) N Bycroft S 10 12
5	08-	BILLE LUCIONA (1220) DIA SMITUTIO N' DICOLS DE L
В	0	DOCTOR BRAVIOUS (21) (Us Glyns Purcel-Brydon) B Elison 4 10 2
] 7	0	GENERAL ACADEMY (B) (Mrs M E Curtes) J Curtes 4 10 12 D Byrne
8		GREY SHOT (F37) (J C Smith) Baiding 5 to 12 R Dunwoody
] 9	5442-6	J J BABOO (16) (Rotand Roper) M Hammond 4 10 12 R Garritty
10	a	LAND OF CHIEFS (16) (K Lee) F Murphy 4 10 12
Ħ		LAW DESIGNER (L.C. Mautiby) S Bell S 10 12 K Johnson
12	0-0	MACINUS MAXIMUS (38) (P Larryman) Mrs S Larryman S 10 12 Mages (3)
13	44/0-4	MY BUSTER (20) (Mm J M CMilgan) Miss M Milgan 5 to 12 R Guest
и	0	NOTOCHIG (38) (J A Sepherson) P Cheesbruigh S to 12
15	6	NOLIKARI (21) (Cernz Transport (Ireland) Ltd) J Howard Johnson 4 10 12 _ E Calleghan
16		OPAQUE (P24) (G J Kesny) W Storey S 10 12 R McGrath (3)
7	P	RASIN CHARGE (8) (Ray Crapps) R Crapps 6 to 12
18	040-	STINGING BEE (402) (N G Reed) W Reed 6 to 12
19	4-2	THE BUTTERWICK KID (14) (Robert Chambers) R Fahey 4 to 12
20	000.1	WANTED BUILDING AND
21	03	PM MARGY (NO) (13) (Stanley W Clarke) S Brookstaw 7 TD 7
22	F	NATIVE SONG (10) (Invicts Bioodstock) W Storey 4 10 7 C Miccomseck (7)
7		_ 22 decisted -
BE	TTING: 1-2	Grey Shot, 7-1 Wynyard Knight, 8-1 Opaque, 10-1 Ballad Minetrel, 12-1 J J Baboo,
Th	e Buttlereit	士 Kirl, 14-1 fm Maggy, 20-1 Alpine Hadasway, 25-1 Govern
- 196	6 Alabano	5 11 5 P Niven 10-11 fav (M Campicho) 16 ran

FORM GUIDE

Ian Balding has had some decent jumping horses in his time, notably Impenal Cup witner insular and Cheltenham Festival societ Crystal Spini. The kingsclere trainer now unleashes GREY SHOT, a classy stayer on the level with Richard Duriwoody doing the educating. There are plently in opposition but it could be the ground rather than the hundles that finds him out, Better on a laster surface. Grey Shot is still hard to oppose if in the same form that enabled him to reverse Newbury running with Jiyush when beating Double Eclipse and Further Flight in the Jockey Club Stakes at Newmarker in October. Opaque, another jumping for the Irist time, wouldn't have lived with Grey Shot on the Flat. Battad Ministral, a bumper winner in testing ground at Haydock involvessories ago, is the type to refix the conditions and should go well for his in-form trainer. Many Revelley's bumper winner Wynyard Knight looks bound to run another sound race after beating a big field at Wetherby on his reappearance. The Butterwick Kid was a dour staying type on the level, He has conditions to surf today but he lacked any sort of pace at Wetherby last month when pipped by Cauker I'm Maggy shaped with promise when a close third to He Farm Blues at Haydock and looks easily before than Flat winner Alphae Hudeaway, who was only lifth to Flying North at Carterick.

Selection: CREY SHOT

1.25 RAMSIDE EVENT CATERING HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,300 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £4,260 F631-2 POLITICAL TOWER (18) (CD) (BF) (G R S Nixon) R Nixon to 2.0 . C McComaski (7) 2 5-tm ANABRANCH (32) (0) (Mrs M Barker) JM Ju-Nerson 6 10 10 . E Callaghan 222-4 BOLD ROSS (17) (CD) (John Potson) G M Moore 6 10 5 . B Storey 473-4 BOLD ROSS (17) (CD) (John Potson) G M Moore 6 10 5 . B Storey 5 60-02. SUPER SANDY (206) (D) (Mrs F T Welson) F Welson 10 10 0 . J. K Johnson - 6 declared - Managam weight 10st True handicap weight Super Sandy 751 1-70 BETTING: 2-1 Anabranch, 9-4 Poltocal Tower, 11-4 Dual Image, 4-1 Bold Boas, 20-1 Super Sandy 7596 Potsocal Tower 9 11 10 A Dobbin 6-4 bit 4] Nixon 5 ran FORM GUIDFE

The progressive mairs ANABRANCH represents the trainer/joct-ey combination that got a nice result with Go-Informat at Newbury on Saturday Anabranch is unbeaten in four starts this term and while they were softish races on faster ground than this, she still appeals as being good enough to concede the weight to Bold Boas who linished tailed off on his reappearance at Ayt tast morth. Dual Image could prove dangerous. He needs the kid-glove treatment and today's inder Paul Carberry with this mover hundles at Donaster last January Dual Image is well handicapped on his chase with on the course the following month and, getting 7th from Anabranch is worth a saver with his stable being in line form. Political Tower is a consistent chaser who is best at this trip. He will be all the better for his sessional run at Ayr when second to Montale Forts, who was getting two stone, but he could just be vulnerable under this 12st. Super Sandy has little chance being so far out of the handicap.

1.55 LEVY BDARD CDNDITIONAL JDCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) \$2,925 added 2m Penalty Value \$2,201

	(2.25	E4,850 added 3m Penalty Value £3,274	(CLASS	C)
			GREAT EASEBY (F45) (CD) (C C Basey) W Storey 7 12 7	R McGrat	
1	2			R Su	ippie
	3	21151-	NIGEL'S LAD (F45) (C) (N C Durnington) P Hastam F F: 4	MA	06K#T
	4	112/45	HIT THE CANVAS (USA) 13) (Jeremy Mitchell) Mrs M Peveley 6 10 6	PA	inren
	5	1056-0	ZAMHAREER (USA) (16) (C) (D) (D C Basey) W Storey 6 10 0	C McCormec	k (7)
	6	120-13	TOUGH TEST (95) (D) (BF) (J D Goodfellow) Mrs J Goodfellow : 10 9	BS	OFEY
	7	351225	DONT FORGET CURTIS (10) (D) (Mrs + W Lamb, Mrs + Lamb 5 10 0	Miss S Lam	P (;]
			- 7 declared -		
	٨	Бантит west	ht. 10st. True handicap weights. Lambareer sist 1,715. Tough Tel: 7st 9st	o Donc Forge:	Car.
		s 6.91 5lb			
	-	ETTING- 15	S Nicer's Lad. 100-30 inn At The Top. 5-1 Hit The Canvas, 6-1 Zan	nhareer, 7-1 (J.G.31

Divid: 15-8 Nigers Lad, 100-30 lim Al III by, 8-1 Tough Test, 12-1 Dont Forget Cv Sedvada 4-10 0 G Cahd (5) 6-5 lav i Mrs (

BETTING: 11-8 Kings Measure, 100-30 Queensway, 7-1 Woodfield Ride, 8-1 Sitymore, 10-1 Cheparro Amargoso, 12-1 Joe Buzz, 14-1 What A Tale, 20-1 Time Warrior, Trip Your Triggier, Master Wood, Sunttime Special, 25-1 others

1996 M. Lupak = 11-2 P Nven 5-2 lav IMrs M. Reveley), 3' ran Mary Reveley won this bumper last season with Mi Lurpak so her King's Ride newcomer WOODFIELD RIDE. The mount of Peter Niven is taken to surprise the unbeaten quarter of Kings Measure, Quisensway, Chaparro Amargoso and Sillymore. Kings Measure beat 19 mails at Avrilast season and looked just as good with a cheekly success at Carliste on his retien. But the 10th penalty on sotier ground sets him a stemer test. Queensway looked smart when making a winning debut at Perfft in May He could go very close to day and her preferred to Chaparro Amargoso and Sillymore-Peter Montenths filly hering a hard rare when winning at Ayrilast time. The Phardante newcomer Jo Buzzt, trained by Ferdy Murchy could prove best of the others.

Selection: WOODFIELD RIDE

D Goodelow Mrs J Goodelow	: 10.9 B Storey	ei V
(D) (Mrs + W Lamb, Mrs + Lamb	5 10 0 Miss S Lamb (7)	fet c
7 declared -		bea
Lambareer sist 1.16 Torugh Text	9st 9tb Dom Forge: Cu	on t
The Top. 5-1 Hit The Canvas. 6-	1 Zamhareer, 7-1 Great	day
urtis		ıng.
M Reveleys : ran		by 8

312606 LIFT BOY (26) (C) (D) G L Moore 8 5 9 MORAC WALK THE BEAT [11] (Dt M Meade : 8 -

<u>-</u>	12 10	MEDWAY SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) (Div I) £2,875 Bdded 1m
L	12.10	(Div I) £2,875 Bdded 1m
1	300000	RAGSHOT (19) (CD) G L Moore 698 S Whitworth 9 B
2	20250	GLOSSATOR (30) (DI A Vargettaegnen (5et) 5 9 3 M Servando, 5
1	020000	MAGAZINE GAP (4) Fig. Meznel 4 6 12 Amanda Sanders 7 E

UZUDED MAGAZINE GAP (4) FE MEZHE 4 & T. Amende Sanders 7 & 65545 MA HUBHEACHU (109) J 5 Moore 6 8 t2 P P Murphy 13 6 0-5050 FALCON RIDGE (35) J 5 t0 5 8 T1 WJ O Connor 4 060500 PATRICK (158) D Burchel 9 8 tt V Stateny 8 V Stateny 8 V Stateny 8 G-7 KEEN SALLY (18) R Guest 4 6 7 0000 LADYBOWER (19) (D) J Pouton 5 8 7 0 SEA PENNANT (18) Mrs H Wason 3 6 6

- 10 declared -BETTING: 11-10 Begshot, 3-1 Glossator, 8-1 Patrick, 10-1 Na Huibeachu. 12-1 Magazine Gap. 14-1 Falcon Ridge, Keen Selly. 33-1 others.

f	2.40	ANTELOPE HANDICAP £4,025 edded 5f	(CLASS	E)
-		HALF TONE (68) (CD) R Flower 5 9 13	A Clark	4 B
1	-2000	WITH TORE (SE) LODI UL OND 22 O		
2	20002	EASTERN PROPHETS (17) (D) G LNG 49	C DESIL MITTERIA	W 1 0
3	000083	TEAR WHITE (14) (D) 1 MB 35 12	Lisa Hackett (7	7)3
	00000	AND THE PARKS HAVE THE PARKS OF FREE PARKS	49.7 miles	
4	052433	ANOTHER BATCHWORTH (26) (D) E WIT		^ B
			S Carson (7) 1	V D
_	*****	MALUAS (14) (CD) L Morraque Hall - 97	F Lync	ъS
5	EUUIN	Tring (1st free) consideration and	R Firench (
6	COLARSO	REALIVENTURE (55) (U) d Pagno 9 % =		31 3
Ľ	20.4224	MYASHA (30) (C) (D) A Vanderhaeghen (I	Sen 89 -	
7	U(A321	BITHERITA (SO) (C) (D) IV AN ODD (SO)	S Windworth	7 B
			84 E. L.L.	
_		Oceanical Arm And B Whitsher 5.8	TI MEJEODU	61

DEDODO JUST DISSIDIENT (62) (D) R Whates 5.8 m M 7600.00 1 0-0304 MIDNIGHT TIMES (14) 0 0 9nen 3.6 4 M Bard (3) 6 000300 LUCY IN THE SKY (14) 8 Meetan 3.7 10 N Carlele 2 B BETTING: 5-1 Eastern Prophets, 5-1 Reau Venture, 8-1 Half Tone, Another Barchworth, 13-2 Teer White, 7-1 Midnight Times, 10-1 Myasha, 12-1 Miss, 18-1 Just Dissident, Lucy in The Sky

CHRISTMAS BOX CLAIMING STAKES 1.10 CHRISTMAS BOX CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 6f
1.026 SALTY BEHAVIOUR (39) (D) RHannon 295 R Smith (7) 9
0606 ANOKATO (14) (G) (BF) K kory 393 P Roberts (3) 13
00000 JOHANN STACCATO (4) (G) 769 Netway 38 3 A Wheten (3) 38
4 5330 MKS DOUBLE (14) (D) 769 Netway 38 3 A Wheten (3) 38
5 34000 BLITE HOPE (11) (D) N Triviter 58 12 Dean McKacown 11
6 C0044 CHALLZ (14) N B-Fe-3 8 11 B Caflagham (7) 6 Candy Morris 2 R Brighard (7) 1 S Whitworth 5 V P Bradley (7) 12

201251 HARPOON LOUIE [9] (DI A landermacures 500050 LOGIE PERT LAD (4) J Brager 5 8 % P McCabe (3) 8 B

50% SODEN (14) (CD) 1 May 1 5 C 50% SODEN (14) (CD) 1 May 1 5 C 50% SUPPOSIN (19) (CD) 1 May 1 5 C 50% SWEET SUPPOSIN (19) (CD) 1 May 1 4 5 C 50% PAUSANDER (19) (CD) 1 May 1 4 5 C C Carvet (711 L Dettor 9 V arrange TEMPTRESS (7) (D) 31 Harrs 4 f = 003004 GREAT CHIEF (19) Boo Jones 4 1 70 040760 EXECUTIVE OFFICER (90) F Finals 4 1 7

- to declared - Minarum weight 7st 10th Thus hardings weights. Great Chief 7st 9th, Executive Officer 7st 3th
BETTING: 5-2 Whate Plains, 7-2 See Danzig, 5-1 Palisander, 8-1 Eurobox
Boy, 7-1 Sweet Supposen, 8-1 Zorro. 10-1 Micelle Toe, Tampbress, 12-1
Great Chief, Soden, 20-1 others

2	.45	UCKFIELD MEDIAN AUCTION STAKES (CLASS F) \$3,300 add	MAJDEN
2.0	0.00	STAKES (CLASS F) 13,300 and	60210 III
1	001	CLONGE (14) R Ingram 9.0	A Clark 9
2	00-000	LITTLE PROGRESS (197) T Jones 9 0 .	. R Perham 7
3			R Firench (3) 4
4	22525	KALIMAT (65) W Jarvis 8 9	P Dobbs (7) 5
5	00003	MISCONDICT (22) G L Moore 89 .	S Whitworth 3
6		RASPBERRY SAUCE (7) C Cycar 8 8	. A Morris 6
ř			. M Beird (3) 2
ģ			_M Rimmer 1
Þ	U		_=: :=:::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::
		 - 8 declared = 	
BET	TING: 8-1	1 Kalimat 3-1 Meconduct, 11-2 Fmai Glory, 9	-1 Clonos, 14-1

3.20 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP (QUALIFIER) (CLASS D) £5.000 addeḋ 7f

Silvra, 20-1 Raspberry Sauce, 33-1 others

	,	
902561	APOLLO RED (4) (CD) G ! Moore 9 106 (6ex) Candy Monts 9	1
201310	VECTORY TEAM (31) (C) (D) G Balding 58 12 R Financh (3) 13	
323300	ERTLON (65) (CD) (8F) C Brittan 7 9 12 W J O'Connor 2	ı
305562	MAGIC MILL (26) (D) J L Eyre 4 9 10 R Lapport 1	ı
50-00	COSSACK COUNT (45) S Don 4 9 * P Doe (7) 11	L
(64403	SCISSOR RIDGE (4) (CD) J Bridger 5 B 4 F Norton S	ı
0-00000	DOVERRACE (28) T D Barron ± 9 1. Kimberley Hart (5) 3	ı
0.5050	LANCASHIRE LEGEND (4) (CD) S Dow 4 8 T3	ı
	Dean McKeown 4	
364000	GILA HIGH (8) (C) M Meade 4 8 T3 R Brisland (7) 8	ı
NAME OF	Spirty Jacob (14) 4 Scane 38 th R Perham 10	

522Y0 SHARP IMP (84) (C) (D) R Tower 7 6 8 . A Clark 7 8 00600 SUEVENAMON (6) R Smpson 4 7 10 . N Carlicle 6 B - 13 declared -Minarum woord, 1:d 10to, fure restrictor weight: Sievenamon 7st 8tb, BETTING, 4:1 Scinster Ridge, 9:4 Victory Team, 5:1 Erfon, 8:1 Magic MIL, 7:1 Apolio Red, 8:1 Selty Jock, 10:1 Dovebrace, Gi La High, 12:1 Lancasture Legend, 14:1 Cossack Court, Sharp Imp, 20:1 others

LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS NGFIELD 973 983 0891 261 970

LINGFIELD (AW) HYPERION

11.40 Massyar Seventeen 12.10 Bagshot 12.40 Eastem Prophets 1.10 Elite Hope 1.45 Harpoon Louie 2.15 White Plains 2.45 Kalimat 3.20 Sharp Imp GOING: Standard, STALLS: 5/ & 1m - outside; rest - maide.

GOING: Standard. STALLS: 5f & fm - outside; rest - midde DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low best 5f & 8f.

© Equitrack surface; left-hand, sharp undusting course.

© Course is SE of town on B2028. Lingifield station (served by London, Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Members £13, Family Enclosure £8: CAR PARK: Club £3; remainder fros.

© LEADING TRAINERS: G L Moore 72-554 (793), M Johnston 59-302 (185%), Lord Humitingdon 49-243 (202%), R O'Sulfavan 47-341 (33%), C LEADING JOCKEYS: A Clark 61-505 (21%), D Holland 48-217 (221%), S Whitisworth 40-290 (185%), D Biggs 39-480 (81%).

© FAVOURITIES: 761-2253 (338%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Megazine Cap (1210), Ladybower (1210), Lucy in The Sky (1240), Rocky Watters (145), Hedindebble (visored) (145). Seevenemon (220). oon (3.20).

11.40 MARSH GREEN HANDICAP (CLASS E) (Div I) £4,025 added 1m 2f

2. 00000 (size YuU Street (17) a vogase of the Sydney 7st 2b.
Minimum weight: 7st 10th. Yue tendicap weight: 1 See You Sydney 7st 2b.
BETTING: 7-2 Welcome Heights, 5-1 Clessic Find, 6-1 Adambon, Messyer
Swenteen, 13-2 Sandy Saddier, 2-1 Tissue O'l Lies, Whitmoor, 12-1 Bathan,
14-1 Kalley Sanor, 16-1 Billaddie, Occient, 50-1 L See You Sydney

006000 WALK THE BEAL (TI) (01 M Meads 1 to 10000 MYSTICAL (14) (01) Mrs 1 Souts 3 to 3 to 245400 MANOLO (FR) (41) J Beny 4 to 100500 SIR TASKER (75) (C0) J L mans 9 to 100600 WADERS DREAM (55) (0) Fa Microtics (14) L CONCERNO (14) E Microtics (15) L CONCERNO (14) E Microtics (15) L CONCERNO (14) E MICROTICS (15) L CONCERNO (14) L CONCERNO 030600 WHIZZ KID [19] J Shdger 3.5 C - 14 declared RETTING-9-2 Elife Hope 5-1 Mike's Double 11-2 Anokato, 6-1 Chaluz, 7-1 Lift Boy, Chili Concerto, 8-1 Marrolo Walk The Beat, 10-1 Salty Behat 14-1 Johnny Stancato 16-1 Mystrcal, 20-1 Sir Tasker, 33-1 others

1.45 MEDWAY SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) (Div II) \$2,875 added 1m

n.	THE MERRY MONK J616(D NOTE 6 5)	Ŀ NDay9
-00000	MILIMAIN (39) 'And Studios : 9 Th	S Whitworth 2 B
234006	TALISMAN (11) : Dow 3 6 ft	P Doe (7) 3 B
338000	HADADABBLE (J15) Par Michel - :	M Fenton 5 V
000000	TIME OF NIGHT (USA) (63) JL SAR * 5	T Williams 1
2 (40)	TIME OF HIGHT TOSHY (40) 71 -14	A Clark 6
្រពូវពុក	MISNIN HEIGHTS (14) 1: 9 Gave 1: 6	A CAIR 0
	- 9 declared -	
TONG 12	8 Harpoon Louie, 100-30 Mumium, 5-1 Roc	doy Waters, 7-1 Tal-
0.1 M	skin Heights. Hadadabbie. 12-1 Time Of	Might, 20-1 others
MILL O-1 MI	SENITA PROPERTY.	•
		3 400 E
1 E	MARSH GREEN HANDICAL	Y (CLASS E)
2. I Ə I	MARSH GREEN HANDICAL (Div II) £4.025 added 1m 2	1
	(DIA W. TA'OF? GORGE	•
925U	SEA DANZIG (7) ICD) : tridger = 100	Candy Morns 4
005-00	WHITE PLAINS (7) (DI * Shele = 9 13	G Parkin (3) 8
	BOWLED OVER (7) 1 1 29 1 3 5	# Ffrench (3) 12

060000 NJ CHI SAGA (155) (C) (D) G L Moore S8 (2...S Whitworth 12

influ

Do

He

ani

dos

Did some bright spark say: 'Here is a chance to make lots of money'? Wany years ago I wrote a column doubtedly brought shows

saying that rugby had failed to tiredness in the players. Unfortulots of lovely money."? Or did he jet engine. My point was that, as aeroplanes now existed which could rapidly traverse long distances, as daisies, but certainly with a good lengthy tours were no longer necessary. A team from the Southern Hemisobere could come to these is-

that, while there was a good deal of South Africa, France and then sense in what I had written, I South Africa again. No doubt the seemed to have taken no account of the strains that would be imposed cope with such a schedule more eason the players. I replied that a tour of two or three weeks would surely cause less stress than one lasting ing some wear and tear at the end several months. He was not so of it.

catch up with the invention of the nately, the tiredness bas been in the say: "Here is an opportunity to pitch players from the host countries. The our national side against the very visitors are, I will not say as fresh few matches in them yet.

No team is in greater need of reuperation and rest than England. calculation. In teaching - not neclands for one or two matches, and And no wonder. I do not think New essarily rugby, but teaching Zealand have ever taken on, on four generally - there are two ap-A former Lion commented to me successive Saturdays, Australia, present New Zealand side could ily and successfully than England have done. But they would be show-

What I should like to know is this. Did some bright spark at the Rug-Africa and Australia have un- by Football Union say: "Here is an Lions' summer tour have been dis-

hest opponents in the world, a se-

ries of confrontations from which we can only benefit."? If it was the latter, it was a misproaches. One is to congratulate the pupil but to point out that there are one or two matters which need to be put right. The other is to exco-

approach is much the better because it builds up the pupil's confidence. The visits of the teams from the Southero Hemisphere have broken down confidence. The effects of the

riate him (or her) for slipshod work

which has to be corrected. The first

ALAN WATKINS



ON RUGBY

sipated. What are now called the Cettic nations will, I think, pick up their spirits more easity. On Saturday's evidence. Wales now have the basis of a formidable side. If Neil Jenkins returns to full-back. Arwel class loose bead prop is acquired as the Welsh variety used to be in from somewhere, my native land may yet surprise everybody.

That will he in the Five Nations' panded and quite right too. There is no reason why England should not win some matches in that competition as well. But whereas Wales have come to terms with their status as a second-class rugby nation. England had, until the events of the last few weeks, seen themselves as a major power with a guaranteed seat at the

Several factors played a part in this self-estimate. There were four Five Nations' championships (including three grand slams), in the 1990s. There was the new Twick-Thomas comes in at outside-half, enham, "Swing low, sweet chariot."

Jeuan Evans is fit. Craig and Scott and the rise of English rugby chau-Quinnell are brought in and a top-

the 1970s. And yet - here is the curious thing - a team containing several Championship, shortly to be exchampions only a few months ago. It was, admittedly, a joint enterprise involving representatives of all four home countries. Nevertheless, English players made a significant contribution to the Lions' success.

But - here is an even more curious thing - Clive Woodward, the England coach, chose not to build his team around the Lions contingent he had available to him, but to go off on frolics of his own. He is now hlaming the selections policies of the English Premier Division clubs, which deprive him of choice. in particular at outside-half. by

There was a time, before par fessionalism, when the RFU nearly succeeded in confiring First Division teams to England qualified players; much as the prior had done (and presumably still does) with the divisional sides. There is now a clear conflict of interest between the national side and the chibs, and no amount of hopeful talk about good will is going to resolve it

But Wales had from English clubplayers at Wembiey, which must be a record, and they may have more in the future. Professionalism has changed everything if Woodward and the RFU act in restraint of competition and free movement of labour, they may have the European Court breathing down their necks in addition to their other worries.

Everton deny Hinchcliffe is up for sale

Howard Kendall, the Everton Leicester on Saturday. The 33manager, yesterday denied that year-old playmaker, a key figbe is prepared to sell the Eng- ure for Scotland in the World land left-back. Andy Hinch- Cup finals, will be given the recliffe, in order to finance new

The 28-year-old Hinchcliffe, the home defeat against Tottenham at the weekend, which left the Goodison club rooted to the bottom of the Premiership table.

"If you bave heard that as a it is just that, a rumour," Kendall said. "I left Andy out because I felt it was the best explanation and I will tell him." turf should they get that far.

Should Hincbeliffe leave, region of £3m, with West Ham among interested buyers.

taken the Coventry City de- League game. fender David Burrows to moving in the opposite direction, is off - midfielder Pembridge having decided to stay at Hillsborough.

ened to walk out of French foot-

hall if referees do not stop

"If they want to drive me out

of France, they're going about

it the right way," the former

Middlesbrough striker said af-

ter being refused a penalty in

Marseilles' 1-0 defeat to Nantes

on Saturday. "It can't go on like

The £5m French record sign-

ing was accused in the media of

diving to win a penalty when

Marseilles beat Paris St-Ger-

main three weeks ago. "Ever

since, referees have given every

decision against me," he said.

The Italian international

this. It's so small-minded."

discriminating against him.

sults of a scan taken at a Birmingham hospital.

Sheffield United have signed who recently signed a new five- the 33-year-old Dean Saunders year contract, was left out for for £400,000 from First Division promotion rivals Nottingham Forest. The striker - now at his 10th club - is the third new face to arrive at Bramall Lane in the last week,

Old Trafford is in line to bost rumour, then I can assure you a European final for the first time. The 55,000-capacity home of Manchester United is one of five grounds being considered thing to do at the time. I want- by Uefa for the next May's fied to bring our new defender nal of the Champions' League Carl Tiler into the side. I or the European Cup-Winners' haven't felt the need to talk to Cup. However, United would Andy about it. No doubt some- not be allowed to stage the Eutime this week he will ask for an ropean Cup final on their own

The striker Ian Blackstone he would command a fee in the has been given a six-month suspension by the Football Association for a challenge which The deal which would have sparked a mass brawl in a non-

Blackstone, the former York Sheffield Wednesday, with and Scarborough forward, has Mark Pembridge plus cash been fined £100 and will be suspended from the 15th of this month to 15 June because of the serious nature of the offence which occurred when he was Gary McAllister will know playing for Harrogate Town in today the severity of the knee a Unibond League First Diviinjury he suffered during sion game against Workington Coventry's 2-0 defeat against in October.

captain, Laurent Blane, who

said, "It's blatant, referees are

co Simone, who plays for Paris

St-Germain, told him to grow

up, however. "This sort of thing

happens in football. It's swings

His coach at Marseilles, Rol-

land Courbis, wondered wheth-

er they could afford to put

Ravanelli on the bench. "He's

the cluh's higgest investment,

but the way things are going we

can't use him," he said. "If that

continues, we have got to look

at the commercial implications

and roundabouts," he said.

Ravanelli's compatriot, Mar-

singling him out."

Nicky Law at Ilkeston Town's New Manor Ground - which was built on an old council rubbish tip. 'Believe me, this is the hard way. People in the pro game don't realise how hard

aw discovers the less glamorous side of the Cup ounder

if likeston Town beat Scunthorpe United in Saturday's FA Cup second-round tie, their captain will be desperate for a third-round trip to one of his many former clubs. Phil Shaw meets an Highbury old boy with something to prove.

The road that led Nicky Law from the marble halls of High-'Small-minded' referees may bury to the home likeston Town built on an old council rubbish drive Ravanelli out of France dump was full of twists and turns. But nothing prepared him Fahrizio Ravanelli has threat- received support from his club for his first experience of the FA

Cup as a non-League player. Flashback to August. The car taking Ilkeston's Matt Carmichael to the preliminary round lie at Buxton hroke down, so a YTS boy of 17 deputised. The striker finally arrived at halftime, went on and scored the only goal. As Law reflected, with a smile and a shake of the shaven head, it would never

have happened at the Arsenal. Ilkeston, whom the 36-yearold Londoner captains, as he did the Gunners' youth team 20 years and as many hairstytes ago, have now battled through six rounds. A Premiership side would have the Cup and a

place in Europe to show for such a sequence. The Dr Martens League Midland Division club's reward is a second-round

trip to Scunthorpe on Saturday. For the majority of the mainly youthful squad assembled by likeston's manager, Keith Alexander, pitting themselves against an above-average Third Division outfit may be as good as it gets. Law has known bigger occasions in a career spanning nearly 550 League appearances, vet looks upon the game at Glanford Park as possibly his last chance to seize the spotlight.

Until now it has played hard to get. As an England schoolboy international snapped up by Arsenal at 14, he served his apprenticeship he fore graduating to the professional ranks and becoming a regular in the reserves alongside Paul Davis, Chris Whyte, Paul Vaessen and

Raphael Meade. In 1979, a fortnight before Arsenal contested the FA Cup final with Manchester United, Law was substitute for the first team at Aston Villa. The 17year-old defender was not summoned from the bench to join Pat Jennings, Liam Brady, Frank Stapleton and Graham Rix and never came as close again to top-flight foothall.

"The manager, Terry Neill,

said he wanted to put me on, but

we were getting stuffed 5-1 and Villa were taking us opart. It wasn't the ideal time to send a

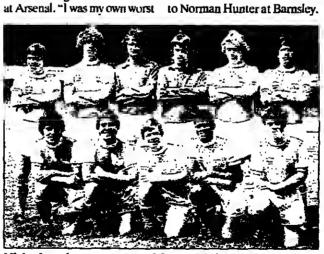
young kid on." Fast forward to last nutumn. Law had no sooner left Chesterfield, the eighth of his 10 clubs. than they embarked on a run which took them to within a whisker of Wembley. Instead of helping them in the two semifinals against Middlesbrough, he bad to support them from the

His higgest regret, however. is not making more of his time

enemy." he said, "The opportunity was there and I wasted it. I was earning good money -£150 a week was a lot 18, 19 years ago -but I probably didn't train hard enough and knuckle down to it.

When my contract was up, they called me in. I could tell what was coming the moment I walked in to see Terry Neill. I suddenly realised I badn't done enough. It was a sad day hut Don Howe took me to one side and said: 'You've got something - stick at it'."

Howe recommended him to Norman Hunter at Barnsley.



Nicky Law (top row, second from right) with Arsenal youth players 20 years ago. His team-mates included Paul Davis (bottom row, second from right), Paul Vaessen (top row, second from left) and Rhys Wilmot

where his time included a quarter-final tussle with Liverpool. Typically, he missed out through injury. Then came Blackpool, Plymouth, Notis County, Scarborough. Rotberham and Chesterfield. "What's kept me going," be said, "is the feeling that I let a golden chance slip

by at one of the world's great-

Last stop on his full-time circuit was Hereford, in what proved to be their final League campaign and "an absolute nightmare" for Law. "My manager at Chesterfield, John Duncan, said be couldn't guarantee me a regular place. I left a hit hastily and signed for Hereford on the understanding that I'd

come in three days a week. "When things started to go wrong it became six days a week. If we lost on Saturday we had to go in on Sunday. I was driving three hours each way from my home in Nottingham to do an hour and a half's training."

Alexander lured him back to Derbyshire midway through the season. Law has found aspects of the part-timer's life a culture shock - like the threeinch nail he trod on in the shower recently - but after what the manager describes as "a sticky start" this season his experience has been crucial in likeston's promotion push.

Although Law thought he knew all about the lore of the Cup, their run has been an eyeopener. "When we went to Buxton with a few bundred people watching I remember thinking: 'This is the FA Cup?' Then we drew Rossendale, who I'd never heard of. And you're wondering: 'How many more'?"

RTM Newcastle, another name to test his credulity, came next. Followed by Hyde, Chorley and Boston United. Believe me, this is the hard way. People in the pro game don't realise how hard some of these little teams graft."

Although Ilkeston will be the little team at Scunthorpe, they are beartened by scouting reports which suggest that their hosts allow opponents to play.

Law, who also runs the club's Football in the Community scheme and coaches at Notts County's centre of excellence. acknowledges the size of the acknowledges the state of his task but makes no secret of his task but makes no secret of his part for the hist. third-round wish list.

"Arsenal away would be fantastic, of course. I'd love to go back. So many memories. Or Manchester United, After 10 goals I'd come off and say I was injured! But seriously, though we couldn't pretend to live with sides like that, it would be a great day. It's the perfect incentive for Saturday."

Illustrating accounts of sex, lives and visual hype from Bradford to Australia

tity of rugby league books goes. 1997 has made up for it with quality and

Take two offerings from opposite ends of tast season's Super League experience, for example. Running With The Bulis by Graham Clay (League Publications, £9.99) is a rapidly produced account of Bradford's title-winning season, but very nicely put together by a workaholic

well as writing the text. Not every season at any old club would justify this sort of obsessive, blow-by-blow account, but wanted to contemplate. 1997 at Odsal most certainly does. Bradford's legion of fans will those with a more general interest. The game lives to fight another day

in the game will enjoy it for the light it throws on what it takes to produce the success that the Bulls wallowed in this year.

The timing of Oldham RLFC: The Complete History 1876-1997 by Michael Turner (self-published, £19) could hardly be more poignant.

Although the project had been simmering for years, it came to the boil just as the club was going to the wall a few weeks ago. The complete who took most of the 200 photos as history was in danger of becoming more literally complete than Turner or any of the other devotees of one of the game's original clubs

In the event, the launch of a new Oldham cluh is recognised by a lastpounce on it for Christmas, but minute insert slipped into the book.

in the town and the book is an eloquent illustration of why it matters. If ever a club had a monument to the richness of its history, then

this book is it. It is the first English club history of its quality and the first to compare with the best of the Australian equivalents. Having said that, it might he a

few years before the game in Britain vields a biography as revealing as Ian Roberts: Finding Out by Paul Freeman (Random House, \$29.95 in Australia, awaiting publication here). Roberts, the former Manly (that's the club, for beavens sake)

and Australia prop, has an aston-

ishing story to tell. It's the story of

bow he concealed something he had

known from the start of his rughy

career - namely that he was, as be

puts it, just about as queer as it was possible to be - and how he has, over the last year or so, come out as the game's first openly gay player. Everyone already knew Roberts

BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

was a singularly tough player. The mental toughness it has taken to stand up to the abuse that has come his way since he went on the record about his sexuality is something else again. But, as be says: "What can they tell me that I don't know." Using a writer from the Sydney

② 🚳 ○ 🖜

gay scene gives the book a depth of in this book, even to the extent of deinsight into Roberts "other" life, away from the rugby field, that could not have been achieved in any other way.

You get an occasional feeling of heing harangued about the unfairness of the world to gays, but that is a small price to pay for such an extraordinary life story. It is not necessary to fancy Ian Roberts to find it compelling reading.

Offiah: My Autobiography hy Martin Offiah with David Lawrenson (Collins Willow, £15.99) might seem straightforward stuff by comparison, although set alongside the 1993 offering from the same team it is positively soul-baring.

Offiah has always been one of the harder men in the game to get to know, but he opens up considerably

bunking rumours that he too is gay. The most interesting episode of

his return to rugby union with Bedford and his discovery that the grass was not really greener.

Arko - My Game by Ken Arthurson (Ironbark, 15.95 from Open Rugby) is an important document in the recent history of the game, especially for the veteran Australian administrator's account of the Super League not bis. war. It will come as no surprise to anyone who has followed the saga that his British counterpart, Maurice

Lindsay, does not get a great press. Sex rears its bead again, I'm afraid, in Inside Out - Rugby League Under Scrutiny by Roy Masters (Ironbark, £13.95 from Open Rugby).

It's the usual Masters mixture of pretentious gobbledegook and dazzling insight. It's worth wading his story is the new material about through a lot of dross to find out that the first job that the architect of Super League. John Ribot, had when be came to play in Sydney was repossessing televisions. Better still is an anecdote about the Test scrumhalf, Ricky Stuart, who awoke after a hig night out with his team-mates staring at a ceiling that he knew was

isteros' Ryder

Beside bim, to his horror, was his coach's wife. There's a promising career over, thinks Stuart, until he turns the other way and finds, to his

enormous relief, his coach. If ever a night deserved a book of its own, that must be it. — Dave Hadfield

a beartened by select

the which suggest the

Australia leave out Healy

Australia 400 and 38-2 dec; New Zealand 251-6 dec and 223-9 Match drawn

Ian Healy, the world recordbolder for dismissals by a wicket-keeper in one-day internationals, was surprisingly dropped yesterday from the Australian one-day side.

Opting for an injection of youth and a more specialised limited-over team, the selectors dropped five of the current Test 12 including captain Mark Taylor, as expected.

We're making a real genuine reak. There's going to be two different teams from now on'." Taylor said. "This year is going to be a real test year as to how well it's going to go. It's a case of suck it and see," he said.

The selectors had signalled the change in strategy earlier this year after a series of poor one-day performances at home and abroad, despite Australia's status as unofficial world Test

champions. Healy, a veteran of 168 oneday matches and 97 Tests, said be was disappointed and remained available for his country as both a one-day and Test

He was replaced by Western Australian wicket-keeper Adam Gilchrisi, who made an accomplished debut in South Africa earlier this year.

With 235 dismissals in oneday internationals, including 194, catches and 39 stumpings, Healy is widely regarded as the best current Test wicketkeeper.

New Zealand tail-end batsmen Simon Doull and Shavne O'Connor defied all that Aus-

tralian maestro Shane Warne could burl at them to ensure a draw in the third Test yesterday in Hobart.

The two fast bowlers endured the longest 38 minutes of their cricketing lives as they put together an unbroken stand of 38 minutes for the last wicket, surviving 10.4 overs of Warne's vicious leg-spinners and increasingly bostile bowling from Paul Reiffel.

New Zealand were 223 for 9 at close on the fifth day as they denied what had seemed certain to be a third Australian victory in the series.

Australian captain Mark "What they're saying is Taylor had earlier declared at 138 for 2 to set New Zealand the target of 288 runs from a minimum 60 overs for an unlikely victory.

(Final day; Australian won toss) AUSTRALIA - First Innings 400 (M T Eliot 114, D S Blewelt 99, M E Waugh 81) NEW ZGALAND - First imnings 251 for 6 dec (M J Horne 133). AUSTRALIA - Sec

Corner not out tres (b2, b7)



Australia's Shane Warne appeals as Steve Waugh (left) removes the bails to run out Roger Twose in Hobart yesterday

Photograph: Reuters

Inzamam and Aamir pile on the pressure

West Indies 303 Pakistan 403 for 3

Dazzling centuries by Aamir So-

hail and Inzamam-ul-Haq gave Pakistan an edge against wayward West Indies on a recordbreaking third day of the second Test at Rawalpindi yesterday. Resuming at the overnight

total of 122 for 2. Aamir and Inzamam combined in a record 323-run third-wicket partnerPakistan finished the day at 403 for 3, losing only one wicket, Stumps were drawn 12.3

overs early because of fading light. It gives Pakistan a useful lead of 100 runs over the West Indies' first innings score of 303. Inzamam was undefeated

with a marvelous 169 off 299 balls, hitting 19 fours and a six each off Courtney Walsh and Franklyn Rose. Mohammed Wasim was unbeaten on three.

Aamir and Inzamam's ensbip against the West Indies as - terprising stand of 323 off 372 - when Aumir was spectacularly

minutes bettered the previous best of a 303-run third-wicket stand against West Indies, made by England's Michael Atherton and Robin Smith.

After a delayed start of 30 minutes because of an outfield damp with a heavy overnight dew. Aamir and Inzamam frustrated the West Indies four-man pace attack for more than two sessions. Courtney Walsh brought the long-awaited breakthrough shortly after tea. caught by a substitute. Phil served century when he steered Simmons, running back from gully position and holding a twohanded diving catch. Aamir, dropped on 38 by

Brian Lara, reached the three-

figure mark when he lifted Carl Hooper over mid-off for his 14th boundary just before lunch for his third Test bundred.

Inzamam, who until yesterday had not scored a century at bome despite achieving the three-figure mark five times abroad, finally got his fully de-

PAKISTAN – First Innings (Overnight: 122 for 2) Aamir Schall o sub is Walsh, Internam-ul-Heg not out

lan Bishop for a single to third

WEST INDIES - First binlings 303 (SChanderpaul 95, S L Campbell 79; Azher Mahmood 4-53)

OLYMPIC GAMES

Nagano backs down over skiing course

It may well have been the hardest fought 85 metres in the bistory of the Olympics. After a five-year battle over where to start the men's downhill, organisers of the Nagano Winter Olympics, which start on 7 February next year, announced yesterday that they are finally ready to back down.

Uoder a new plan announced after a meeting of the Games' top executives, the starting point of the downhill course on Mount Karamatsu, a rugged peak in the central Japan Alps, will be raised to an alutude of 1.765m (5,791 feet).

"I think we have not just a good course, hut a very good course." Yoshiaki Tsutsumi, a member of the organising committee's executive panel said.

Getting up the hill was not easy, however. Organizers had originally set the start at an altitude of 1,680m. That would have made for the shortest downhill in Olympic history, a prospect that did not sit well with the skiing authorities, who wanted the start at 1,800m.

Nagano organisers, however, said they could not change the course because they did not want to infringe on land protected under national park zoning laws. That position won some sup-

port from local environmental groups, but the organising committee's refusal to consider several compromise proposals offered by the skiing federation did not go down well with the general public. The skiing federation also pointed out that hundreds of thousands of recreational skiers use the same area each winter.

As mudslinging on both sides intensified, organisers decided last month they had no choice but to give in. "This is a sports event, so we must take the opinion of sports experts into account," Makoto Kobayashi, secretary-general of the organising committee said

RUGBY UNION

All-rounder set to handle a family affair

wall shout the limit He may have played 50 witheir run has mission times for Cambridge mer. When and hand University but next week ple acteburg the Jonnie Cocks wins his thing This sale Falls rugby Blue in the Varsity Match Borid Llewellyn reports on the English born, Australia educated ne to test his around player who holds a But incredibly the engaging

in the programs don't The inclusion of Jonnie Cocks in the program of these at No 8 will add more colour to next week's 116th Varsity match when the Light Blues of Cambridge University go for for a fourth successive victory over out Cocks brings a remarkable CV to Twickenham. The 26year-old Epping born Cocks, who was educated in Australia, is a hell of a sporting allrounder. He is already a boxing Blue, a rugby league half Blue and is also looking to add a basketball Blue to his collection.

Cocks, the fourth generation of male members of his family to have gone up to Cambridge and the second Rugby Blue after grandfather Frank (1935) will be winning his first Rugby Blue despite having played for the university on 50 occasions in his three years there. "I was pret-Grand University's Dark Blues. ty disappointed to miss out in

dling skills and ability at the line- ted, "but when you look at the - and the two of them have kept players who got in it's perfect- in touch ever since. ly understandable; the first year it was Steve Surridge, the All Black No 8, and last year it was Russell Earnshaw. But I've finally got in the side." Dilettante Cocks does not confine his interests solely to sport. Before he left Australia to come up to Cambridge where he is reading management studies, he had

been a professional actor. Interestingly, his selection brings him up against a former adversary from the boxing ring, the Oxford blindside flanker Myles Orsler. The pair met in a heavyweight bout when caraing their respective Boxing The which States Apart from his superior hand the first two years," he admitted the three two-minute rounds Blues - Orsler won on points af-

But their rematch, for the

Bowring Bowl, looks like going Cambridge's way. Orsler will be winning his third Blue but the signs are that Oxford will again be on the wrong end of the affair. The Dark Blues captain Richie Maher said yesterday: "I don't mind the rag of underdons but I think we are too evenly matched sides and I think it will be a close game."

Tom Murphy, like Maher an Australian, said: "Their pack is stronger than in previous years hut we have also improved and our backs are funtastic. They will have to play very well indeed to

heat U.S."

CAMBRIDGE: P A Surridge (St kennigern College, Auckland and Hughes Hall) N J

Welne (Casrison Comp and St Catherines), M. P. Robinson (Opuneke, NZ and Hughes Hail), M. C. A. Denney (Bedford Modern and St Edmunds), N. J. Hill (St Ignatious Cot. Sydney and St Edmunds); R. W. Ashforth (Bradford GS and Peterhouse), R. J. Elliott (Durham and St Edmunds); G. M. Reynolds (Cheshurt and Hughes Hail), T. D. Murphy (St Ignatious Cot. Brisbane and St Edmunds), and Scheep Susses), R. A. Bramley (Queen Edzabeth GS, Wakeheld and St Edmunds), A. M. Craig (Basmang, NZ and Hughes Hail), M. J. Hyde (St Ignatious Cot. Sydney and St Edmunds), M. J. Hyde (St Ignatious Cot. Sydney and St Edmunds), M. J. Hyde (St Ignatious Cot. Sydney and St Edmunds), Cot. Sydney and St Edmunds), Cot. Sydney and University, Cather (Newington Cot. Sydney and University, Cather (No. Cot. Physiological Cot. Sydney and St Arme's H. S. Arme's H. J. Policiek (Decessan Cot. Cape Town and Hobier). T. P. P. Jennien (St Edmunds Cot. Canberra and St Arme's). N. A. Hogan (Testaure Cot. Dublin and Merton). R. P. Lethner (Jesut HS. Sacramento, Catheria and St Arme's). M. J. Ognatic (Rose School, Parramiatis and St Arme's). A. J. Roberts (Ampleicoth and Tissut, M. G. P. Orsten (Ampleicoth and St. Arme's). A. J. Roberts (Ampleicoth and Tissut, M. G. P. Orsten (Ampleicoth and Tissut, M. G. P. Orsten (Ampleicoth and St. Arme's). A. J. Roberts (Ampleicoth and Tissut, M. G. P. Orsten (Ampleicoth and Tissut, M. G. P. Ors

Allen and Regan

Northampton centre Matt Allen and Bath hooker Mark Regan have been handed the task of facing New Zealand for a third consecutive Tuesday after being named in the England A team to play at Leicester tonight.

The pair were part of the England Emerging Players team that conceded 59 points to the midweek All Blacks a fortnight ago and also played in a much improved display as the England Rugby Parmership side lost 18-II last week.

Nine of the ERP team are retained. Changes are kept to a minimum. John Bentley and Nick Greenstock having been promoted to the Test team last weekend, while the selectors take the chance to scrutinise the form of Adedayo Adebayy on the wing and No 8 Ben Clarke.

Repeat task for Scotland must wait for Weir

Doddie Weir has lost his race to field on Saturday. The Newcastle second-row was hoping that a troublesome back problem would clear up in time to face the Springboks, but the Scotland revealed that Weir will need up

can contemplate a playing return. tralia nine days ago.

The former captain. Rob

But doubts remain over two more Lions, Alan Tait and Gregor Townsend, with the Newcastle centre Tait given only a 50-50 chance of recovering from a hamstring pull sustained during training last week.

Townsend was reported as being "very positive" about overcoming a knee injury incurred during the same intensive session at Murrayfield.

SCOTLAND SQUAD (v South Africa, Murnayfield, Saturday): Backe: G Armstrong (Newcastle Falcons), G Chalmers (Mehrose and Scottesh Borders), J Craig (West of Scotland and Glasgow), D Hodge (Watsonians and Edinburgh), C Joiner (Leicester), K Logan (Wasps), A Nicol (Bath), R Shepherd (Mehrose and Caledonia), A Stanger (Hawkick and Scottesh Borders), D Stark (Glasgow Hawks and Glasgow), A Tart (Newcastle Falcons), G Townsend (Northampton), Forwards: G Budock (West of Scotland and Glasgow), S Campball (Dunder HSFP and Caledonia) G Graham (Newcastle Falcons), S Gramer (Metsonians), and Caledonia), D Hilton (Bath), S Murray (Bedford), G Mickelwy (Watsonians), E Percer (Bath), S Rad (Bocughmur and Edinburgh), I Smith (Mosely), B Stewart (Edinburgh), M Slewart (Northampton), P Walton (Newcastle Falcons), SCOTLAND SQUAD (v South Africa, Mur-

SPORTING DIGEST

England pair finish third

England's Walker Cup ama-. tenr golf pairing of Justin Ken Kearney came fourth, Rose and Gary Wolstenholme but Scotland's Sam Cairns timshed third in the Simon Bo- and Hugh Macdonald finished livar Cup international team in 16th position - one place : lournament at Caracas in Venezuela over the weekend.

Rose (278) and Wolsten- Price. real day It the frame (285) combined for a four-round aggregate of 563 -Kentaro Yonekura and Mitsunori Kaneko, whose 18-upadrift of Venezuela.

Ireland's Jody Fanagan and ahead of the Welsh pair of Jamie Donaldson and Rhodri

Rose's 10-under-par total of 278 gave him a share of secfive strokes behind Japan's oud place with Wilfredo Morales, of Puerto Rico, and Canada's John Drewery in der-par total was a the individual event, which tournament record, and four was won by Yonekura with a 13-under tally of 275.

Ballesteros' Ryder blueprint

gue. John R. Seve Ballesteros has revealed awarded points. It should not be awarded points. It should not be done on money." Having the to play in the next European Ryder Cap qualifying race over eight ting icles in the Ballestense control of the Bal

Rallesteros resigned as capduce the chances of an out-ofight ont with the contraction in Sentember 1999. want one with the last stranger after the victory at wants to older or Tender as he ide him is the second of the s swife The ections, he said. Think qual-

duce the chances of an out-of-

Ballesteros had only two Boston in 1999. There should ed four, but his request was reseef, there's signification should only be in the Angel Martin's injury he would be other with the state of t the other with arrent year, not starting the have been forced to omit either the first tevious September and the terms. reviews September, and the top Nick Faldo, Jose Maria Olaza-Sin any formament should be bal or Jesper Parnevik.

American football AFRETICATION TO ANY Jets 10; New Orleans 16 Carolina 13; Jacksonville 29 Baltimore 27; Kansas City 44 San Francisco 8; New England 20 Indiana, 20 Indiana, 20 Chochmett 42; St Louis 23 Washington 20 Plusburgh 26 Arzona 20 (od); Tampa Bay 20 NY Guards 8; Mismi 34 Oaktard 16; Atlanta 24 Seattle 17; Denver 38 San Diego 29.

Baskethall NBA: Indiana 101 Philadelphia 89: Allanta 108 San Antanio 96: Vancouver 97 Detror: 95; Seattle 108 Orlando 81: New Jersey 87 Sacra-mento 73; LA Lakers 105 Toronto 93.

Boxing Herbie Hide will make the first defence of his World Boxing Organisation heavy-weight title at the Norwich Sports Vil-lage on 17 January. Hide reclaimed the title he lost to Riddick Bowe by defeating American Tony Tucker at the same venue last July. An opponent has to be

TODAY'S NUMBER

The players sent off as Intemacional defeated Santos 4-1 in the Brazilian football championship at the weekend to avenge a 4-0 defeat they suffered against the same team a week ago. Two players were sent off in the first two minutes and there were 16 bookings.

wich is also on the bill after successfully detending its WBO and international Boxing Federation Intercontinental light welter weight ritle with a points verdict over Latvia's Rimindas Bilius on Satur-day. He will face Londoner Jason Row-lands, while the other championship bett being contested is the WBC Intercon-tinental super-featherweight little be-tiveen holder Dean Pithie and challenger Paul Griffin.

confirmed, Jonathan Thanton (Not-

SUPERSPORT SERIES (Final day of four): Ourban: Eastern Province 238 for 6 dec (F.C. Wasses 65. J Penn Stroy, New 33 for 2 Match drawn, Johannesburg: Generol 98 and 93 Free State 235 and 70 for 3 Free State won by 8 wickets.

Free State 205 and 70 for 3 Free State won by 8 wickets.

TOUR MATCH (Cape Town): West Index A 200 and 72: Western Province 193 and 202. If D Addresman 72 H Pangarker 53: 0 Use son 5-85). West Indies won by 23 runs ENGLANIB SQUAD FOR TOUR OF PANIS FAM ANO SHARJAH: A J Hothoake ISoney capil. A D Brown (Surrer) N V Kmght inversions, A J Stewart ISoney wold-theeping G A Hick (Worcestershave) G P Thorpe (Surrey). B C Hollooke (Surrey) M A Eathern (Warwickshave). B C Hollooke (Surrey) M A Eathern (Warwickshave). D W Heedley (Famil P J Martin (Lancashars) Tour Manager D A Graverky Coach: D Lloyd Physio: W P Morton Press officer. B H Mungstrovil. Binerary: 2 December. Amive in Lancre. 4 Dect Practice match mothing entire squar plus invited local players: S Dect: v Pasistan A it above. 7 Dect. v Pakistan A (Lahoret, e Dect: Trovel to Sheigh, 11 Dect v India: 13 Dect: West in Idea; 15 Dect: v Pakistan 19 Dect: Final of Champions Trophy (if qualified) 20 Oec. Peterners.

Cycling Britains Italian-born cyclist Max Sciandri finished a weekend training session in hospital with multiple injunes after colliding with an oncoming car. Sciandri, who is with the Francaise des Jeur team, was training with two other nders at Montecatini Terme yesterday when he swerved to avoid people who had wandered into their path and ended up against the windscreen of a car He suffered a head injury, cuts to the face and a broken looth. He was tak-en to hospital in Pistola and is not er-

pected ID train for three weeks

Golf

Football

Champions Trophy (if qualified) 20 Oec. Peturn to London Woods at La Quinta, Catrlornia.

FAUMERO TROPHY First round proper drawn Berrow's Warksop Manne or Graninam's Bad tod Part Assinue in Legip Roll Hallan Manne Sym Sparters Longer Roll Hallan Manne Roll Hallan Manne State Hallan Manne Ma

Claire Dowling, four times a Curtis Cup player, has been named captain of the Great Entain and Ireland learn for the Espirito Teophy the Women's World Amateur Team Championship in San-liago from 12-15 November next year. Tom Lehman fred a seven-under par 29 over Sundays nine holes to win \$170,000 (£107,000) and the Skins Game title over fellow Americans Mark CriMeara, David Duval and Tiger Woods at La Ourna. Cartiorna.
LEADING MEN'S WORLD RANKINGS (MS unless stated): 1 fi Faman (Aust 1075 pts ave 2 1 from 10 fi February 1075 pts ave 2 1 from 10 fi February 1075 pts ave 10 fi February 1075 pts ave 1076 pts (7 fi February 1075 pts (7 20 1 Valson 547 9THO LEADERHOARD: 1 4 Screens at these \$2559 24 Wildh (Ass.: 5938 31 L Current 50; \$3559 44 Referent (56: 3,084 51 Members free: 12409 6 C Johnson (USA) 1183 7 M McGain (US) \$7748 81 Ladder, (USA) 5058 85 Pepper (US) \$200 10 J (Mater US) \$724

6 will be making his first appearance. BANCD REAL MASTERS TOURNAMENT ISAO Pavia, Br) Final, fi Milatock Netherlands of Experient Bis 7-5 6 7 7-6

Ice hockey WHIL: NY Rangers 1 Flunda 1 jan Edmonton 6 San Jose I EXPRESS CUP: Manchester Storm 5 Not-tricham Partities 6 job - Basingstoke Bisons 3 Ayr Scorish Eagles 5. SUPERLEAGUE: Cardiff Devis, 3 Bracknet Boes 1, Sheffield Steelers 3 Newcaste Cobras 2 (of)

Rugby Union

RUGJANO A (v New Zesland, Leicester today):
T Simpson (Newcastle), B Brown (Richmond),
S Potter (Ledester), M Alten (Northamplon), A
Adobey of Bathy, R Butland (Barn), S Benton
(Gloucester), G Rowntree (Leccester), M Regen
(Barn), P Victory, O Same, R Fidler (all Gloucester), R Jenkins (hartisquars), B Clarke (Richmond),
P Sanderson (Sele), Repiscements: M
Mapletoft (Bloucester), V Libogu (Barl), N MicCarthy (Barn), S Shew (Masper R Winters (BodJord), N Walshe (Hartisquars) forti) N Waishe Harleques
ENGLAND UNDER-2: TEAM (v New Zaetand
Under-21s, Newbury, Friday 5 Dad): M Horak
(Lelester): O Thompson | Saraceresi S Woof
Watertoo, J Printrund (Bath) L Lloyd & Accestor J WWinson (Newcaster M Wood (Waspet
M Worsley Efristoi A Long (Bath) V Hartland
(South West Division) J Boardshew Waspe and
conthorn and Indexester J Browning Res

coum west Division of Boardsnew (wesps and Looghborough University of Browning) (Bris-loi) of Cocide iMoseky) 1. Moodly (Lexestor) of Worsley (Wasps), Replacements, S. Doxon Rhamogale) of Lewany (Bristo), P. Richards (Lon-don Irish), A. Kershaw (London Irish), D. Alex-popolous (Wasps), E. Webb (Lexesses and Loughborough University) P. Sanderson (Sale)

LIVERPOOL-VICTORIA UK CHAMPIONSHIP IPrestoni Firnel: P. O'Sullivan (Engl. b) 5 Hendry (Sco. 10.6): Frame scores: O'Sullivan Risk, 129 (1)3 37-75 78-13 15-19 44-63 (6-68 67-28 24-73 99-13 75 73 88-9 72-9 79-0 82-0 1 80 70 77

Britains top two tennis players Greg Rusedski and Tim Herman will take part in the Qatai Open to be held from 5-11 January 1998. Herman, ranked 17 in the world, was the runner-up in Doha 1997 while Rusedski, the world's No

be fit for Scotland's match against South Africa at Murraycoach, Ritchie Dixon, vesterday to another two weeks before he

His absence from a 26-man squad named vesterday was the main blow to the Scots as they seek to erase the memory of a drubbing at the hands of Aus-

Wainwright, looks set to replace the unfortunate Adam Roxburgh - concussed against the Wallahies - after playing his first same in a month for his club. Dundee HSFP, at Glasgow Hawks on Saturday.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

7.30 unless stated NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION Ipawich v Middleabrough (7.45) Sheffield Utd v Stoke (7.45) WBA v Manchester City (7.45]......

Football

SECOND DIVISION SECOND DIVISION

Blackpool v Plymouth

Bournemouth v York (7.45)

Bristol City v Burnley (7.45)

Fulham v Brentford (7.45)

Crimsby v Wycombe (7.45)

Luton v Gillingham (7.45)

Northampton v Chesterfield (7.45)

Coldham v Carlisle (7.45) Southend v Preston (7.45)..... Wigan v Bristol Rovers (7.45) Wredtern v Watford

Colchester v Cardiff (7.45)..... Darlington v Shrewsbury Doncaster v Chester Exeter v Lincoln City (7.45) Hartiepool v Hull...... THIRD DIVISION

FA UMBRO TROPHY Third qualifying round replays: Mergate v Corby Town (745); Grantham v Marine (745); Abingdon Town v Stilingbourne (745). don fown v stimpbourne (1/2).

IR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division: Gloucester Cry Salistury, Southern Division: Fleet Town v Bashley (1/45). League cup second round: Bedworth Utd v Worcester Cry; Clevedon Town v Forest Green Rovers; Crawley Town v St Leonarde Stamoroft (7/45). UNIBOND LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP Third round: Allmicham v Colwyn Bay: Blyth Sparians v Frickley Athletic; Spen-nymooi Uid v Boston Utd.

RYMAN LEAGUE Second Division: Egham Town v Marlow: Metropolitan Police v Bracknell Town (7-15); Windsor & Eron v Hungerlord Town (745); Whit Division: Herriford Town v Plackwell Heath (745) v Hungerford Town (745). Third Division: Herriord Town v Plackwell Health (745); Kingsbury Town v Epoem & Ewell (745). Guardian Ineurance Cup second round replay: Wealdstone v Hichin Town Full Members Cup second round: Sarton Rovers v Harrow Borough; Carshathou Amietic v Aldershot Town, Chesham Utd v Gravesend & Northifeet: Hampton v Maderhead Utd; Leatherhead v Chensey Town; Stance v Sutron Itd; Urbindige v Heybridge Swifts, Yeading v Wembley Associate Members Trophy

second round: Lewes v Horsham, Toot-ng & Mijcham v Corinthian-Casuals. INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND AL-LIANCE: Pershore Town v Kings Notion

UNIET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Languey Sports in Line UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Languey Sports v Has-socks, Littlehampton Town v Portfleid: Pagham v Mille Oak: Peacetraven & Telscombe v Halleham Town; Ringmer v Saltdean Utd; Selsey v Wilck. Salidean Utd; Selsey v Wick
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First
Oivision: Herne Bay v Folkestone Invicta (745); Ramsgale v Lordswood (745);
Turbridge Welle v Chatham Town.
JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier
Division (745): Clacton Town V Sudbury
Town Waston Utd V Stowmarket Town.
Wrosham V Newmarket Town. League
Cup second round (745): Great
Yarmouth Town v Warboys Town.
Hadlegh Utd v Gorleatn; Lowestort Town
v Histon; Sudbury Town Res v Norwich
United; Tiptree Utd v Woodbridge Town. SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Olvision: Bridgwater Town v Elmore (745); Paulton Rovers v Chard Town. UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier Division: Eyresbury v Stortold, St Nects v Kempston. ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE First Division: Morpeth v Eas-ington; South Sheds v Stockton; Tow Law v Billingham Synthona. GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES CUP

GILERY LEAGUE OF WALES CONTROL SEGMENT OF CITY (5) v Porthmedog (0): Caersws (1) v Inter Cable-Tel Cardiff (1); Contrahs Guay Normade (1) v Caernarfon (2); TNS Llansantifraid (0) v Cerneee Ynys Mon (1) NATIONWIDE GOLD TRISH CUP Finat:

PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Tranmere Rovers v Manchester Utd (70) AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION

Rugby Union TOUR MATCHES: England A v New Zealand (745) (at Leicesten, South West Under-21 v New Zealand Under-21 (730) (at Gloucester): Caledona v Australian Capital Territory (70) (at String). He

ani

15V2

The World Cup draw is not until Thursday but the lobbying for position has been going on for weeks. This morning the seeds are revealed and England are not optimistic. Genn Moore, in Marseilles, examines their prospects of a seeding.

It was not just the movers and shakers of world football that blew into Marseilles yesterday: the Mistral was also whistling into town, which could make the

Brittin expects

every woman

to do her

England fly

out to take

England women's

on the world

cricket team set out to

Cricket tours to India have

been known to throw up the

odd problem - as it were - and

the one on which the England

women's team embark today

has run true to form - as it

England's record scorer, Jan Brittin, said. "But we have

heard that the opening cere-

the World Cup they won with-

in these shores four years ago,

England are aware that the

cext four weeks are going to

pur are already scheduled for

group marches. Then they

hope to be venturing further

afield for the knock-out stages.

ceived coaching advice from

Mike Gatting, Dermot Reeve

and Gooff Arnold in the past

year, have been named joint

favourites along with New

Zealand, who they beal in the

group, along with the hosts.

South Africa and Australia.

The holders, who have re-

Hyderabad, Pune and Nag-

involve a lot of travelling.

As they prepare to retain

mony is in Calcutta."

"We are flyiog to Delhi,"

India today to defend

the World Cup. Mike

Rowbottom witnessed

their final training

session at Surrey's

indoor centre.

duty as

held in the open air, more lively than the exhibition match which is to precede it.

The actual process of the draw is yet to be released but, for England, it may be no bad thing if the carefully arranged balls, hats, or pieces of paper are blown all over the Stade Vélodrome. They will hear officially today, but the whispers oo the wind suggest that England will not, after all, be seeded.

The FA were still lobbying hard behind the scenes last night but, in public, they were facing

World Cup draw, which is to be ment if we are not seeded." Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, said, "but whatever will be. will be. Being seeded is not the advantage it used to be when you played three games in one venue.

There are six or seven teams that can win the World Cup and we are one of them. Eventually we would have to beat the best so, whenever we get them, and wherever we get them, we will be ready for the job."

If the Fifa rankings are incorporated into the seeding, which is usually decided on the basis of previous World Cup up to the prospect of not being performance, England may well squeeze ioto the seeds. "We be-

England are sixth reflect the real progress made in recent years by the England team," Hoddle added. We have a new respect in the world. Whether we are seeded or not

ong as possible." If England are not seeded there is a school of thought which suggests they would welcome Brazil on the basis that, assuming England and Brazil qualified as the top two in the group, they would not meet them again until the linal.

This, of course, was the seenario in 1970 when England hist

lieve the rankings fin which to Brazil in the group stages but countries, are seeking an still went through to the quarter-finals. Unfortunately West that Brazil and France had an ad-Germany then intervened to cancel the re-match in the final.

This, though, is unlikely. Brazil will be kicking off the tournament in Paris and it is others will want to avoid us as doubtful that Fila, or France. would welcome the prospect of England's tans being part of the opening extravaganza.

Wherever England start they may be without Sol Campbell. The defender collected his secand yellow eard of the qualitying tournament in Rome and is thus under threat of suspension. England, and other allected

vantage in avoiding suspensions as they did not have to qualify.

"Everybody should start from the same position when we get to France. We want Sol available." Hoddle added. To grant an antnesty would go against the principle established in Euro '96 when Jürgen Klinsmann and Nadal were among those suspended while England, who did not have to qualify, were untroubled. A compromise is being mooted in which only those who received red cards in the last qualilying game would be suspended.

England expect to feel squeeze in World Cup seedings Most of this politicking seems to be passing the local citizenry by. There are a number of posters advertising the World Cup, a boy leaping for a ball under the legend "Bienvenue au monde" being the most popular, but Marseilles appears more concerned

with L'Affaire Ravanelli.

After Olympique Marseille dropped from second to fourth in the French league, Ravanelli began acting the four-year-old again. This time he is claiming that the media have so turned referces against him he may be hounded out of France.

The local support, whose fanaticism won this ancient port the

cum-draw, will not be able to page an early judgement on Ravanell as Italy's representative in the gala match is Alessand Costacurta. England's Paul Inc. is there; Scotland's replacement for the injured Gary McAllister is undecided.

Ireland's fans won the Fife. Fair Play Award yesterday for their sporting behaviour during the Republic's unsuccessful quali ifying campaign. Robbie Fowler had been a contender after heat. tempted to have a penalty given in his favour in last season's Arsenal-Liverpool game revoked. Ravanelli's threat, page 30

Berg finds United strike force in

awesome form

Henning Berg believes the come here and attack because Manchester United juggernaut is becoming unstoppable at Old Trafford. The Norwegian in- three strikers up front, an ternational defender feels no team can cope with their attacking power at home.

United are sweeping all before them in the Premiership and in Europe and they have scored 20 goals in their last four home games. Berg feels this is testimony to the depth and quality of their strike force.

We have so much quality in the team that it's very hard to defend against us," he said. "I think any team coming to Old Trafford will struggle because of the way we are playing offensively. With our strikers, Teddy Sheringham, Andy Cole and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, it's hard for any learn to combat them because of the form they are in.

"Then in midfield, we have Ryan Giggs, who is in tremeodous form, Bull, Beckham and Scholes. With so much quality going forward, it's going to be very, very hard for any team to defend against that." Blackburn tried to stop

United by playing Chris Sutton as a lone striker and packing the midfield. However, that ploy did nut work and neither did West Ham and Sheffield Wednesday's terday. The 24-year-old Norfactic of attacking United ear- wegian talent has scored five lier in the season.

"Teams try different tactics against us." Berg said. "When West Ham came here they tried to attack, and it was the same with Sheffield Wednesday, You take a chance if you go out and attack us because if you don't score, then we are always likely to score.

"Blackburn, maybe, looked at that and thought we can't said.

Maurice Lacroix

Switzerland

that's going to leave spaces for them to score. But when we play with Giggs and Beckham in midlield, it's still very hard to de fend against us." Berg admits United are even

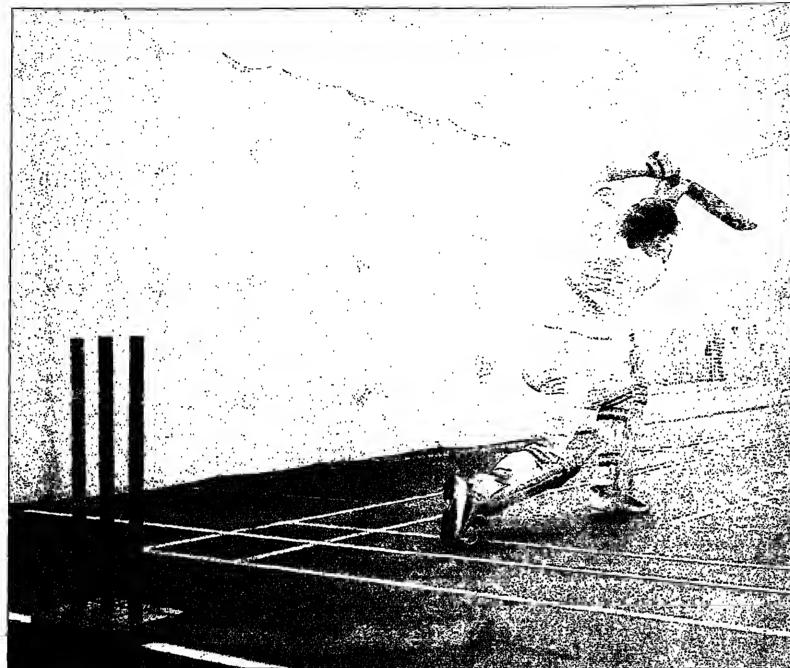
better than he thought they were before he joined them in his £5m summer move from Blackburn. In particular, he is impressed by their professional attitude. "I knew they had quality, but I've found that it's not about individuals, it sabout how they gel together and that's the main thing." he said:

"It's very rare to get that in a learn and especially so early in a season. They are somature in that when they win a game they don't celebrate. When we played away to Fevenoord and we won I was looking around the dressing room after the game.

"I thought it was a tremen dous result because it had virtually put us through to the OWN'S NEW Sa quarter-finals, but they were just sitting there as if it were just a to hits micici normal game. I could not believe it but they are used to success."

Berg's compatriot. Solskjacr, thinks his best form is yet to come after kick-starting his - ... season against Blackburn yesgoals in as many starts and said: "I think I am improving day by day. I think I have improved from last year and I have learned more during the time I have been out injured.

"It would be nice to get my lite ... first hal-trick but two goals is enough to start with," Solskjaer. who has scored twice in each of his last two Premiership games.



Clare Connor gets in some last minute batting practice yesterday before the squad fly out for the World Cup in India

not gone."

When England last played there 18 months ago, Clare Connor, who is among those flying out, spent three days in hospital with a severe stomach upset. So. bot-

last World Cup final, at Lord's. The Kiwis are in the other tled water and no salads. The England party which Eogland's main immediate leaves Heathrow tonight is a difopposition will come from ferent proposition to the one which toured India in 1996. Pre-All the usual precautions viously undreamt of funding are being taken to avoid the has offered the players a level of fate which befalls so many support that Rachael Heyboe-

This year there was a National Lottery award of £76,000 to the Women's Cricket Association, plus inclusion in the fouryear, £14m sponsorship deal which Vodaphone have signed

with both the national teams. Not the least advance is removing the obligation on players to pay their own way, or at least to contribute hugely towards it. Even three years ago, players were contributing £2,000 each to four Australia.

"I dread to think how much land will also look different - this year their traditional cubittes I have paid over the years." said Brittin, who has played inhave been replaced by trousers.

The trousers era looks like being the beginning of the Charlotte Edwards era for the World Cup holders. This 17-year-old from Pidley near Huntingdon has already made her mark opening the batting with Brittin since becoming the youngest two sports scientists skilled in England player when she was capped at the age of 16.

Edwards has already shown

she is made of stern stuff - she learned her cricket playing for boys teams, and turns out regularly aloneside her father and brother for Ramsey in the Cambridgeshire Premier League. She doesn't sound like the type to be put off by a few bouncers and a spot of sledging...

Photograph: Peter Jay

1997 HERO HONDA WORLD CUP (India, 8-29 Dec): England group matches: 10 Dec v South Africa (Hyderabad), 12 Dec v Polustan (vignaweda): 14 Dec v Derman (Hyderabad).

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

sporting tourists in India. Flint would have killed for.

ACROSS Almost crazy boy in Scot- 22 land (4) Dissolute caliph has to

cati io help of regular characters (10) 10 Notice non-conservative speech is an extra (8) 11 Group of at least three

coppers arresting one? 12 About to play rondo, encounter a barrier (6)
13 They produce winter

lating at Xmas? [4,4) 15 Be short of a place to speak? I state it's showing indifference (13) 18 Stretch of land holds answer to deal (8)
20 One male with little pro-

tection against Europeao

Learner io a game is a strikingly handsome

youth (6) Wrong to hold time as lasting forever (8) Brawling spreads round Irish street with new play starting then (5.5) It's not odd that time should be lost in race (4) 16

DOWN Laugh loudly about funny English construction ve-hicle (4,6)

Not asked to keep a number free (6) A hand working round French company's ranch Friend secures right to

church package (6)

Club ripe for takeover in country? (8) Use deceit to get university place (4) Woman on distant object

which appears to be an Craftsman apparently doing impossibly well in the Olympics? (4-6)
Tin with drink is found in channel (8)

Has time to change and limit power of fellow sailor (8) One certain to be plenti-21 To polish up study is an onerous task (6) In the vessel one is an irritating person (4)

Hollioake given backing as one-day captain

David Graveney, the England manager, yesterday denied that appointing Adam Hollioake captaio against potentially istan. West Indies and India is gamble.

ternationally for more than 20

years, "although I wouldn't have

and her 13 colleagues will be ac-

companied by a manager, two

coaches, a physiotherapist and

sports psychology. And as well

as feeling different to the way

they did in previous years. Eng-

When she goes this time, she

Surrey have developed a reputation for being a ooisy, awkward side on the field under 26-year-old Hollioake, but that did not stop him leading England's new one-day squad in the Champions' Trophy in Sharjah.

As England prepared to leave for Lahore where they will warm-up for the four-nation packed with one-day specialists.

tournament in the United Arab Emirites, Graveney said: "Mike Gatting and I had a first-hand view of Adam's captaincy on the volatile opponents such as Pak- A tour of Australia last winter and his qualities were obvious. so we don't see it as a gamble.

> shoot-out between Adam and Michael Atherton to see who is to captain England in the future. "It is an exciting challenge for Adam both in terms of the captaincy and also to cement his

place in the Test side." The 14-man England squad.

play three warm-up games. The Sharjah tournament begins on Thursday week against India, with matches following against West Indies on 13 December and Pakistan two days "Nor is this a head-to-head

> Worcestershire are favourites to sign Derbyshire's England international Devon Malcolm from under the noses of Northamptonshire. Duncan Fearnley, the chairman, confirmed Worcestershire's interest.

itinerary, Digest, page 31

THE MONEY MEN

Hamed top of British earners

Prince Naseem Hamed's earnings are only just the start of the piggest financial success story in British sport. Hamed's manager Brendan Ingle reckons the boxer will reach the nine-figure mark before he is finished punching for huge pay days. The World Boxing Organi-

sation featherweight champion's income from in and out of the ring in 1997 - \$12m (£7.5m) has surpassed that of Lennox Lewis, \$9.7m (£6.1m), according to the American magazine Forbes.

"I said three or four years ago that Naz will earn £40m and all he's got to do now is keep winning," Ingle said. "And with the

pay-per-view market and Frank Warren promoting him, there's nothing to stop him earning £100m. Warren has done a fantastic job. The heavyweight champion [Lewis] should really be ahead, but Naz has passed him under Warren.

A recent poll in a British national newspaper put Lewis as No 1 earner with Hamed in second place, but Hamed's commercial interests are now huge. The Forbes list, headed by

the basketball player Michael Jordan with \$78.3 [£48.9n1). puts Hamed at Nn 22 and the WBC champion Lewis at 35th with identical ring fortunes.

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